

HISTORY TRAYTOWN BONAVISTA BAY

TRAYTOWN, BONAVISTA (inc. 1971; pop. 1991, 374). The community of Traytown is located at the elbow of the Northeast Arm of Alexander Bay (an inlet of central Bonavista Bay), approximately 4 km east of Glovertown. For many years a lumbering community, in 1994 Traytown's major industry was tourism. It also served as something of a dormitory community for Glovertown. The name Troy-town was originally applied to all of Northeast Arm, a shallow inlet which extends 12 km to the east of the present community. This name led geologist J.B. Jukes to engage in some speculation as to its origin when he visited the area in 1840: "there are no permanent inhabitants in this place, and though several families generally winter there, there is nothing like a town, and I did not learn why it was called Troy Town. The depth of water at the entrance of Troytown is only sufficient for a small skiff, and much of the water inside is very shoal." It is likely that the name comes from Troy-town, near Dorchester, a village that had a famous maze or labyrinth cut into its turf. Troytown eventually became a West Country expression, referring to a maze, or "a scene of disorder or confusion". Troy-town is also the earliest recorded version of Traytown, Trinity Bay and Triton, Notre Dame Bay all of which have some features in common. Although the area had been used for winter work for many years by people from Flat Islands, the inlet's unsuitability for the fishery meant that Traytown was not settled until the 1880s, when a water-powered sawmill was established by a Mr. McCalm or Montcalm in what is now the west end of the community. Within two years the mill was sold to a Charles Kean, who subsequently employed two other pioneer residents (Robert Keel of Bonavista and Gus Gullickson) as millworkers. The community first appears in the Census, as Mill or Troy Town, in 1884 with a population of nine. Two other mills were begun in the 1890s, by the Ledrew and Collier families, as well as mills at Cull's Harbour and Rosedale at the mouth of the Arm. Other early settlers included the Arnold, Denty, Ralph, Roach and Whelan families, making up a population that had increased to 81 by 1901 and 127 by 1911. The first school was established in

1899 and Church of England and Methodist churches in 1916 and 1917 respectively. In the early 1920s there was further growth, related to the building of the Terra Nova sulphite mill at Glovertown South, with a population approaching 200 being employed as loggers and labourers. There were also a few family farms (the Wyatts and Genges), while the Patten family made up the majority of the few Traytown residents engaged in the Labrador fishery. Although the closing of the Terra Nova mill in 1924 was something of a blow to Traytown, residents continued to find employment as loggers for the A.N.D. Company. Saw-milling decreased in importance, with the last of the old mills closing in 1937. Traytown experienced another period of growth in the late 1950s and early 1960s, as some families resettled there from the islands of Bonavista Bay. However, resettlement's impact was even greater on Glovertown, which became the major regional service centre and in some respects began to spill over into Traytown. The establishing of Terra Nova National Park in 1957 also had an effect on Traytown with the first tourist cabin being opened soon thereafter. In 1994 the Traytown area attracted tourists several cabin/motel resort operations, and also had great many seasonal residents. Other local industries included a sawmill and a sand and gravel quarry.

School children were bused to Glovertown, where most other services were obtained.

INTRODUCTION

Traytown, which was, as mentioned, once called Troy Town, named as such by the early settlers because the town at one time was divided into trey (three) sections. They were as follows:

- (1) Mill Cove in the extreme west of the town.
- (2) Ledrews area which was occupied by Ledrews and located in the east of the town
- (3) Culls Harbour located on the other side of South West Arm. The latter of these has been recorded as a settlement since 1901.

Traytown is located on the western boundary of the Terra National Park and is spread out along a portion of a narrow inlet of the sea, which is known as South West Arm. It is proximately twenty miles inland from the open sea and on the north side of Bonavista Bay. Immediately behind the town are sparsely wooded hills which eventually merge into either barren or boggy terrain.

The harhour, although effectively sheltered from winds in all directions, has little or no potential as a port due to the water being much too shallow for use by boats of anything larger than a small motor boat. Most of the bottom is covered by either large boulders or sand bars.

Because of Traytown's northerly and inland position it did not attract the earlier settlers of Newfoundland who made their living from the sea and, therefore, desired to settle near the fishing grounds. Saw-milling in the later part of the nineteenth century marked the real beginnings of Traytown. Before this time the only interest in the area was in the salmon fishery supplemented by the cod fishery. It was the immigration from the islands in the nineteenth century that increased the population rapidly. With the centralization programme in the 1950's the population again increased fairly rapidly.

CHAPTER 1

DEMOGRAPHIC FORMATION OF TRAYTOWN

The earliest people to winter in Traytown were two brothers Charles and Stephen Ralph this was sometime in the mid 1870's. These brothers fished from Flat Island in the summer where they operated their own schooner. In winter they would move in from exposed head lands to the shelter of South West Arm. Also there is reported two Micmac Indians, Joe and Stephen John, living in Traytown at that time. They lived by hunting and fishing.

The earliest permanent settler was a man by the last name of McCalm. He came to Traytown somewhere in the early 1800's. In the 1884 census there is recorded a population of nine people. It is probable that these were people connected with Mr. McCalm. He set up a sawmill at what is commonly known as Mill Cove. He operated the mill himself for two years and then sold it to Charles Kean. The mill continued and in 1900 employed thirty men.

The next report is not available until the one in 1901. This is due to Traytown and the other surrounding areas being combined in the 1891 census and reported as Alexander Bay.

In 1901 the population had grown by seventy-two people. Most of these people were in the age group between fourteen and sixty. Seventy-nine of the settlers were Newfoundland born and the other two were Irish born. Among these were: Gus Gullickson and Robert Kiel, the latter being a millwright from Bonavista, who came to work in McCalm's mill. Other early settlers who either worked in the mill or in the logging operations were: Victor Roach, John Ralph, William Ralph and John Whalen. The Ralphs were originally from Port de Grave and came to Traytown via Flat Island.

John Whalen came from Cupids and settled in what is today called Cull's Harbour. In this population report for 1901, there was also one teacher, one farmer and one mechanic.

In 1905 RB. Stroud built a sawmill at Rosedale on the South West Arm side of the bay, less than a mile from Traytown. This, no doubt, accounted in part for the increase in population between 1901 and 1911. The population in this period increased by forty-six people. Out of this 1911

population, seventeen were reported in the lumbering industry, but also we see the first fisherman in Traytown as reported by this census. There were ten reported as fishing.

By 1921, the population of Traytown had increased by forty-five more people.

This increase could have been the result of the Sulphate Mill in Glovertown which was just a couple of miles away. This gave the town a population of 182, were Newfoundland born and two were born in the British Colonies.

From 1921 until the present time (1974) there has been no great influx of settlers. The early 1950's saw the coming of the remainder of the settlers from the islands. Today the population 350 and 400.

So from lumbering as the main reason for early settlement, traytown has grown to be a town providing public services. It has no major industry of its own which accounts for the small mainly natural, increase in population over the past couple of decades.

CHAPTER 2

ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Traytown's economy was based on one main industry - lumbering. Besides this, there have been a number of subsidizing industries such as: farming, businesses, etc. This chapter will show the development of these and the changes which occurred.

FISHERY:

Here Traytown is the exception to the area of Alexander Bay. The other towns in the area had as their basis the fishery. This was a combination of salmon and inshore cod fishery. Traytown, however, did not start as a fishing community but did take part in it during the years 1910 - 1940. This is indicated in the census of 1834 which reported no fishermen only men in lumbering.

In 1910, the census reported ten fishermen. As there is no fishing equipment in the form of boats, fishing rooms, etc. reported, I suspect that these men were taking part in the Labrador fishery and operating-out. of Glovertown working for some other larger fishermen.

The 1921 census report shows that there were then seven fishermen. These men were most probably involved in the inshore and salmon fishery. There was, at this time, one cannery in operation. In 1920 a small quantity of lobster and 3120 lbs. of salmon was canned which sold for \$1,055.00.

In the early 1930's the value of the fishery was constantly increasing. During the period prior to the second world war, fishing was the most important economic activity in the town. In

There were eighteen dories, seven motor boats and two small schooners which pursued the Labrador fishery. One Schooner was built by Tom Ralph in 1933 and the other by Hedley Patten in 1935. In total the value of the gear owned by the schooner operators and inshore fishermen exceeded \$5,000.00 in 1935. After this peak, fishing began to decline until it reached today's stage where there are no full time fishermen in Traytown. Most of the fishing that is done is in the early fall when people catch some fish for the winter for their own consumption.

LUMBERING:

Lumbering was the basis on which Traytown was established. As indicated earlier in the paper, McCalm and some other men probably those working at his mill, were the first to settle in Traytown. This mill was operated by McCalm for approximately two years and then he sold it to Charles Kean. The mill itself was run by water power, as were most mills in Newfoundland at the time. Water to run the mill was obtained from a little brook two to three feet wide. As the brook was too shallow and too slow to provide the necessary power for normal mill activities, a wooden trough was built on stilts, to conduct the water from a falls about three quarters of a mile inland to the mill site on the coast. In this way, water could be transported in sufficient volume and with sufficient velocity to provide enough for the mill.

In the late 1890's two new sawmills were built in Traytown. They were built by John Cullier and the Ledrews. These mills didn't prosper as had Keans because the competition in the area for sawmills was high, for at that time in Glovertown, Just a short distance from Traytown, Briffetts, Burrys and Janes had opened sawmills.

Other factors which, I think, might have influenced the premature downfall of these mills are: (1)

The harbour is very shallow in the area where the mills were and thus shipment of lumber was difficult and probably uneconomical.

(2) Timber for the mills was scarce and had to be floated down from the bottom of South West Arm, which was probably too costly and time consuming to continue and

(3) Local markets were filled, which forced new operators to ship to other areas.

In 1905, R..B. Stroud built a sawmill at Rosedale on the side facing Traytown and less than a mile from Traytown. Mr. R. B. Stroud operated the mill himself for about six months and then sold it to Alex Rose. This mill was run by steam power and employed fifteen to twenty men who were mostly from Traytown. At the time it was the biggest and most modern mill in the area. In 1913 the mill was destroyed when its boiler exploded killing Mr. Rose, Jim, James, William and John

Whalen and. Miss Aelaine Babstock of Eastport. The Whalens were the Sons of John Whalen, one of the original settlers of Traytown.

In the early 1900's the wages for loggers and workers directly in the mill were \$14.00 a month and found, i.e. the men were feed while working. This was the key reason that drew men from fishing to lumbering.

The economic relationship between the owners of the mill the workers was very similar to that of the merchants and the fishermen in most outports. For example, in Kean's mill the \$14.00 a month and found. The workers, however, never received any cash. Instead of cash the workers were given a note signed by Mr. Kean which could be used to purchase merchandise, at the shop of Mrs. Elija Burry in Glovertown. Consequently than, residents of Traytown, who worked at Kean's mill, had to walk anywhere from two to two and a half miles to get supplies. This walk was over a road which was often unfit to travel

Later at the request of his employees, Mr. Kean amended this situation. He set up a store of his own to supply the men working for him. In this way he himself could redeem the pay notes with merchandise. Needless to say, many workers felt that often being cheated out of their hard earned money.

With the decrease in sawmill operations in the 1930's - 40's many men went into the woods working for the Anglo Newfoundland Development Company (A.N.D.) These men could have gone to Terra Nova, Gambo or Millertown and wherever it was they probably returned home about once a month. Although lumbering was the economic basis of the town when it started as is indicated by its first name, Mill, its importance has decreased over the years until in 1937 the last mill, which was Kean's, closed down and today there are no mills in Traytown.

AGRICULTURE

Most of the people in Traytown always grew a few vegetables for their own consumption In 1901, however, there was one farmer reported in the Newfoundland census who Settled in the

west of the town. The Ledrew farm continued to be the only one until 1921 at which time there was reported two more farmers. These farmers were Samuel Genge and William Wyatt

As can be seen by the census reports over the years, farming for Traytown has never amounted to any large economic venture. In 1901 the Newfoundland census reported the total produce of the land as being 256 barrels of potatoes, 104 barrels turnip, 8,550 heads of cabbage and 17 tons of hay. In the following census report of 1911, however, the total produce was reported as 321 barrels of potatoes, 58 barrels of turnip, 3,400 heads of cabbage and 20 tons of hay. Here we see a decrease in total output of turnips and cabbage with only a slight increase in the output of hay and potatoes. In the 1921 census report, when there were two more farmers reported, all total produce decreased except for potatoes, which increased from 1911 by 6 barrels. In 1935 the Census report shows that total produce of all crops increased and this continued until 1945.

Today there are no farmers in Traytown, however some people continue to grow a few vegetables for their own consumption.

AGRICULTURE

In 1901 Traytown saw the first attempt by a merchant to establish a retail store there. He was a Mr. Moses Monroe, who immigrated from Ireland. This retail outlet was a small furniture shop and was located in the Vicinity of Kean's mill. Mr. Monroe's first year of business was a success, however, in his second year he was forced to close. This was Probably due to the fact that he had no, or if any, a small number of consumers outside of Traytown. In his first year he had supplied the town's needs and, as a result, the demand for his furniture fell. In 1903 he closed his shop and moved to St. John's.

It wasn't until 1908 that Traytown saw another business establishment set up. Where Mr. Monroe's was secondary in nature this business was of a third order. It was a shop owned and operated by Charles Ralph and carried a small variety of everything foodstuffs to hardwares. Later his son Henry took over the shop. This shop is still being operated today but now by Henry

Ralph's daughter, Louise Arnold.

In 1909 another store was set up this time by the Ledrew family. This store was similar to Ralph's in that it carried a little of everything. In 1917 all of the Ledrews except for Walter, who ran the store, moved away. Harry and William moved back to St. John's, Frederick moved to Grand Falls and Kenneth moved to New York. When Walter Ledrew died, his son, Harry, took over the family business. Today his son, Walter, owns the business.

By 1935 there were seven stores opened in Traytown. These owned by John Denty, who came from Gooseberry Island, Henry Ralph, John Ralph, Mac Gullickson, Frederick House, Charles Kean and Harry Ledrew. Of these, John Ralph did not occupy a building for his business but all of his merchandise was stacked up outdoors and was covered with tarpaulins in wet weather and during the night. This style of business did last but only in the warm months.

Besides the typical confectionery grocery store, there has been other types of businesses set up in Traytown. During the 1960's there was started a sand and gravel quarry by John Jr. and Bert Denty. During peak periods, this quarry provided about ten jobs for the community. In the mid 1960's Charles Kean Jr. started his own construction company and at its peak period, it has employed approximately twelve men.

In the late 1950's Traytown saw the beginnings of a tourist industry. Ambrose Hunter, at this time, built ten tourist cabins. These have been quite a success during the summer months.

In 1967 Dough Roach built a motel with six units and in 1969 Walter Ledrew Jr. built another motel with nine units. These tourist facilities are still operating today and appear to be doing fairly well. At the present time there are only three retail stores in Traytown.

PRESENT DAY SITUATION: 1974

The majority of the people in Traytown today work outside of the town with the major number of these working on the Terra zNational Park, which is about seven miles east of Traytown. Because of its location near the park, quite a number of the residents are involved in the tourist industry. There are

motel operators, cabin operators and guides required, all of which additional employment to the people of Traytown.

RELIGION

The first settlers were listed in the census of 1884 as either Roman Catholic or Presbyterian with the former having two members and the latter having seven members. This was the first and last time that Presbyterians were recorded in the census reports for Traytown.

In 1901 the religious breakdown shows that the Methodists were the dominant religion. In 1917 the Methodists built a church which lasted until 1965. By this time the Methodist religion had been changed to United Church and they then replaced the old church with a new one. Also in the 1901 census report was listed seven members with the Church of England and ten Roman Catholic members. The latter of these never occupied any significant place in Traytown even to this day.

As far as can be seen from the census and gathered from oral reports, the members of the Church of England, who are recorded in the 1901 census report, are the first of this religion in the town.

As census reports for 1911, 1921, 1935 and 1945 show however, this has become the dominant religion. They built their church in 1916, the first in Traytown, and it still stands its original site. (2008 Now known as the Orange Lodge)

In 1900 a new component of religion was added to the population. This was the Salvation Army. Over the years their numbers have fluctuated but they still have members there today. This religion has no church in Traytown but its members attend meetings in nearby towns, mainly Glovertown

In the last few decades there have been more denominations into Traytown These are The Pentecostal Assembly, the Seven day Adventist, The Gospel Preachers, and Jeovah's Witness. None of these have erected churches in Traytown thus causing their members to travel to other communities to attend meetings.

EDUCATION

Traytown, which has only been in existence for approximately ninety years, has had a School for most of this time. The school first was established in 1899 with Miss Maggie Diamond as teacher. This was, as most outport schools were at the time, a one room building heated by a wood stove. The 1901 census report shows that thirteen children attended School that past year and eleven didn't.

In 1907 the original building used for a school burned down. A new school was built in 1908 which could accommodate thirty pupils. The teacher was still Miss Maggie Diamond. The 1911 census report shows that there was no increase in school attendance over the past ten years and that there was even a small decline from thirteen to eleven pupils. Also, there were twenty-six children under fourteen not attending school.

With the coming of the first world war a new school was built by the Methodists which could accommodate sixty pupils and one by the Anglicans which could accommodate forty pupils. In the 1921 census report there were forty-one children attended school and only seventeen who didn't.

Educational opportunity in Traytown as elsewhere in got increasingly better after Confederation in 1949. In the mid 1950's Glovertown, a nearby settlement, opened its new central high school which served the older students of Alexander Bay, including Traytown. Only a school is now located in Traytown. These latter events are the result of centralizing educational facilities in the outports.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND MERCHANTS: I

As in all of Newfoundland the original relationship started out to be a consumer dependent on merchant. This was particularly of the fishing industry but as mentioned previously, it spread by a small degree to the sawmill industry. This credit system is not the dominant trend today. The merchants have more and more competition. People now travel to Gander to do any large amount of shopping. This, in turn, has caused some merchants to fold but there is still three or four major merchants operating in the town.

POLITICAL ASPECTS:

There was never too much interest taken in politics in Traytown. The people were interested in earning a living and if the government didn't bother them then they didn't bother the government. Those who were interested enough to vote were basically Protestant-Conservatives. In 1869, like the majority of the people in Newfoundland they were against Confederation and voted strongly against it. The picture changed however in 1949. At this time most of the people were in favour with Confederation and helped to vote Joseph R. Smallwood into the government.

UPDATE - 2013

This history was written in 1974, there have been many changes since that time. There are no stores, churches, or schools in the Town of Traytown in 2008. The original United Church is owned by a local merchant Mr. Wade Kean, it is used for storage for his business. The Anglican Church is now the Orange Lodge. The churches has lost their wonderful steeples and the people of Traytown have joined the congregations in Glovertown. There are no stores left in Traytown, Ledrew's was taken over by Maxwell and Velma (Arnold) Mesh in the 1980's. The couple employed two people most of the time. Mrs. Phyllis Denty was a long time employee of Mesh's General Store. There have been many people who have worked there since that time Mrs. Carrie Osborne, Mrs. Emily Hutchings, and several more. Glenn and Dianne Arnold took over the store in the 1990's but they closed the store in the 2000's and no one has opened since.

The cabins are still the tourist attraction Ledrew's is now owned by Larry and Erica Smith who also run the Post Office in Traytown. James and Joan Mercer now own Roaches Cabins, and they were sold to Carl White and than to the Mercer's, who called them Pinetree Cabins under the business name of Atlantic Lodgings. Traytown Tourist Cabins owned by the Hunter family for many years were sold to Bob Vardy, they were once the big attraction over looking the Mill Cove area of Traytown, but they were not upgraded for many year and few people wanted to stay there anymore. Mr. & Mrs Mercer

(Atlantic Lodgings) has purchased these cabins within the last few years, updated them and in 2012 they added a swimming pool to the area.

Most people work in construction away from the town. Robert and Paula Kean have a Contracting business that employs a few people. The Camp 21 was the local watering hole, it is now a storage facility for a warehouse business, owned by Manuel Dove. The Border Lounge built by Norman Squires many years ago has seen two new owners over the years, Dean Rowsell purchased the bar and had it for a few years and in the last five years Dean Ralph from Traytown has owned the bar. There is one hair salon owned by Stephanie Kean which is located in the office building of Crossroads Contracting Limited. Splash n Putt Park was built by John and Bernnette Gardiner in the 1900's and is still thriving today with Shane and Angela Gardiner at the helm. Next to the Splash n Putt Park on the Trans Canada Highway is the Fun Spot Cabins owned by Avalon Sparkes, these cabins were built just after the park was built and have added a conference room/dining room etc since they were built. We have had the Traytown Fisheries for many years and G. Abbott Contracting. Two business have moved to Glovertown, Delaney's ambulance and Traytown Builders. There is a gravel pit in Traytown that contains eight quarries.