

First Thomas Spearing in NL

Historical Evidence

The family is trying to determine *the exact background of Thomas Spearing*. The estimated birth year for Thos. Spearing is 1735 (had four children in 1765). The evidence would indicate that the West Country of England is the place of origin. Thomas owned a large fishing operation, and conducted commerce and trade on both sides of the Atlantic. The historical evidence indicates that Thomas Spearing returned to NL after Governor Palliser moved on (1770) and carried on the fishery operation and trade from St. Lawrence and from Exeter- perhaps wintering in the latter as was customary in those days.

St. Lawrence was named by a group of shipwrecked sailors who came to the New Found Land in 1583 with Sir Humphrey Gilbert. During the expedition their vessel, “HMS Delight”, sank off Sable Island. Sixteen of her crew drifted in a lifeboat for 7 days before coming ashore on the South Coast. Captain Richard Clarke, the master of the doomed ship, wrote a dramatic account of the event in 1584.ⁱ

St. Pierre (St. Peter’s Island) is located a mere 38 miles (62 kms) from St. Lawrence and just 14 miles (23 kms) from Newfoundland, at the closest location in Point May. St. Pierre kept changing hands between the British and the French.

In the 1700's the name was “Sperin”, “Speering”, and “Spearing”, in the official historical records. The modern spelling of the name appears in the 1867 in the St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Parish records and was also written then as “Spierin”. The French records in St. Pierre spell it “Spirn” and it appears there in the late 1800's. The British colonial records mention Thomas Spearing quite frequently and he is well documented, thanks to a few calamities that befell him, while he was trying to conduct business and fishing on the south coast of Newfoundland during turbulent times. We had been almost constantly at war for ages with the French; and British regulations about commerce with them were quite rigorous and subject to frequent change and different interpretation by individual governors especially Sir Hugh Pallisar, (Governor and Commander-in-Chief at Newfoundland from 1764-1768 who was more inflexible than most). He did not want any permanent settlers on the island at all, and did his best to make settlers reconsider their decision to stay. The fishery was reserved for seasonal fisherman from Britain, in his view. (The obvious question is if the British did not want Newfoundlanders to have anything to do with the French why did they keep giving them back St. Pierre and Miquelon every time we won these islands from them in wars). Our unfortunate predecessor, Thomas Spearing, and his boats, were in the right place at the wrong time on a couple of noteworthy occasions. The first unfortunate incident happened in 1765 when Thos. of St. Lawrence was apprehended by HMS Niger while underway near St. Pierre (with several others) in their shallops. He was arrested on the spot and Thomas was summarily deported from Newfoundland back to (Exon) Exeter for “trading with the French”. (col.recs 194/16).

However he appears to have returned to Newfoundland and carried on trade and fishing as usual, until August 14th, 1768, (col.recs. 3/99) when Thos. “owned a shallop found at St. Pierre seized while anchored off St. Pierre (“he an inhabitant of St. Lawrence”). He continued to carry on business as usual in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland and in Exon, England until 1802 however (col. recs) so these setbacks did not seem to be

mortal. He evidently followed the common custom of the time of spending the fishing season in Newfoundland and wintering in England.

Earliest mention in the Colonial Records

Thomas Sperin, June, 1765

75v72

http://www2.swgc.mun.ca/nfld_history/CO194/CO194-27.htm

June 20-25, 1765 Summary

Alex Sabot, Maherine (or "Maturin") Josette, Francois le Moin, Gabriel Bournier, Thomas Sperin, Philip Charpentier, George Lacey, Peter Dorey, John Davis, and nine French fishermen

Hugh Palliser

This is a series of affidavits and declarations, many in French and enclosed with Palliser's correspondence of 16 July below. Most of the declarations are by French fishermen operating out of St. Pierre, though some declarations (Sperin, Lacey, Dorey & Davis) are by residents of Great St. Lawrence, and Oderin. They describe in great detail the practice of the French to overwinter in Bay D'Espoir (at Rattling Brook, Great Jervis, and Conne River) primarily to repair fishing boats, French to overwinter in Bay D'Espoir (at Rattling Brook, Great Jervis, and Conne River) primarily to repair fishing boats, cut timber for Building, and upon which the Fishers upon this Coast mostly depend for Building Boats, &ca." Sperin also described how two hunters, "Indians of Nova Scotia", came to him in Bay D'Espoir where he wintered and took one of his fishing boats, promising to pay him for it eventually. The declarations also reveal that the French are routinely fishing and curing fish at the islands of Lameline and Ramea, building shore installations, harvesting birds, and gathering bait on the sandy beaches there (shellfish called "cocks and hens", the only bait available for the early fishery before the capelin come in). Finally, the declarations reveal the intricate patterns of movement of some of the French. One arrived from France, worked last summer in the Magdalen Islands, then wintered at Codroy, before being transported to St. Pierre by a shallop which had arrived at Codroy from Quirpon and was working for a merchant of Granville. Among the French wintering at Rattling Brook in Bay D'Espoir were several with strong associations with the pre-1755 Codroy settlement, including Jean Bourney (or Bourny), Gabriel Bourney, Jacques Bourney, and others.ⁱⁱ

Affadavit of Thos. Sperin

Thomas Spearin declareth, that he went from St. Lawrence in Newfoundland in the month of October last to the Bay of Despair and wintered there. That at a Place in the Bay of Despair, named Rattling Brook, several French People from the Island of St. Pierre also wintered, but he does not know the exact Number- was told there were about 17; that they were employed cutting Timber, building a Schooner and fishing Boats and Hunting, that sometime in the Month of December last, two of their Hunters came to the place where he was, who were Native Indians of Nova Scotia, one of them speaking English, told him so; and they took from him a Boat then Said for which they told him they would pay him when they should be able."

This declaration made before me the 20th of June 1765. Hugh Palliser (signature) (recorded by secretary)ⁱⁱⁱ

Editor: Note that the declaration above is referring to *October of 1764*.

9 July 1765

(J. Horsenaill for) Hugh Palliser (Great St. Lawrence)

All whom it may concern

"[Enclosed with above] Order concerning inhabitants of Newfoundland who deal with the French at St. Pierre and Miquelon. The order includes a list of names at the end of Englishmen from various Newfoundland communities on the South Coast of the island".

Letter in the Records of Governor Hugh Palliser

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of

Newfoundland, and all of the Territories dependent thereupon. Whereas the several Persons Undermentioned Inhabitants of Newfoundland, have Fished for the French at St. Pierre and Miquelon, and traffich'd with them for French Goods and Manufactory's Contrary to Law and to His Majesty's Expressif Commands; I hereby Order and direct that Said Inhabitants shall be taken out of the Country, that all of the Stages, Rooms, Flakes, Strainfats, Cooksrooms, Houses and other Fishing Conveniency's that are possessed and used by the Said Inhabitants shall from this time be Publick and free for the use of His Majesty's Subjects carrying on the Ship Fishery according to Law, and the same never to be Occupied or used by any other than Ship Fisheries, and if any other Inhabitants shall hereafter be Convicted before one, or before the Captains of any of His Majesty's ships or before the Fishing Admirals of Any Harbour, of dealing with the French either by selling to them Fish, Timber Etc or of Buying from them any French Goods or Manufactory's or of going to the Islands of St. Pierre or Miquelon, all of the Stages, Rooms, Flakes, Trainvats, cookrooms, Houses, further Fishing Conveniency's, possessed and used by such Persons shall be Seiz'd, and reserv'd in like manner for the use of Ship Fishers only, and such Inhabitants to be sent out of the Country.

And whereas of Sundry and Unlawful Practices of the Inhabitants in in destroying the Stages, Flakes and other Conveniency's belonging to the Ship Fishers in during the absences of the Ships in the Winter, the Ship Fishers have been Ruin'd and Excluded from the Fishery and those Inhabitants became Unlawful Possessors of all the Old and Best Fishing Conveniency's which by Law ought to be preserved for the use of the Ship Fishers only, by which the many and great National Advantages intended by that Excellent Act of Reform 10th of 11th William 111 for Encouraging the Fishery is lost, for better preserving to the Ship Fishers their Rights and Priviledges in future agree able to the Aforementioned Act, I hereby Order and Direct as follows:

That Conformable to the aforesaid Act and according to Ancient Custom, no Ship shall be denied a Ship Fisher or enjoy the Priviledges thereto belonging, nor the Masters exercise the Authority of the Admiral of the Harbour, accept those who arrive from Britain, clear'd out at the Custom House as such that same Year, and Employeth at least 21 Men & Boys actually Brought with her that Season, and who are Engag'd to return after the Fishery is over, and that Occupyeth and useth a Publick Ships Room if not a hir'd one that is held and Possessed as private Property.

That besides the Stages, Rooms & Abovementioned hereby Order'd to be preserv'd fore Ship Fishers, I hereby Order and direct that in all Harbours throughout this Government where there are or hereafter may be any Ships Rooms, the same shall be Inviolably preserved for the use of Ship Fishers only, and if any damage is done to any such Stages, or other Conveniencys thereto belonging in the Winter during the absence of the Ships, all the Inhabitants of that Place shall be oblig'd to make good such Damages Imediately on the Arrival of the Fishing Ships and the Fishing Admirals of the respective Harbours are herby authoriz'd and strictly directed to compel such Inhabitants to restore such Ships Rooms and the Fishing Conveniency's thereto belonging into the same State and Condition in which they were left the proceeding Season. O'till such damages are so repair'd the Masters of such Fishing Ships are hereby authorized to Occupy and Use any Stage or Room possessed by any Individual in that Harbour that he pleases to make choise of, for

the Ship Fishers according to the Abovementioned Act must be never disappointed of the Voyage where there are any Lawful Ships Rooms.

And wheras it is the Practice of the Inhabitants, particularly on the S.W. Coast of Newfoundland to Employ in the Fishery a Number of French Men Contrary to Law, and to the Prejudice of the Interested Effect of the Act of the 10th & 11th of William (3^d or R^d) for Raising Seamen for the Service of France; thereby strictly forbid all Persons whatever in the Fishery (after this Season) any men that are not His Majesty's Subjects on the Penalty of Forfeiting for each Frenchman or other Foreigner so Employed or Entertained, one Shallop for the Publick use of the first arriving Ship at the Harbour where such Persons Reside or Carry on a Fishery. And all Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and all Admirals of Harbours are hereby Authoriz'd and Strictly directed upon any Person being convicted before them of Entertaining or Employing any French Man or other Foreigner as Abovementioned, to Seize and take from such Person one Fishing Shallop, with the Mast, Oars and Further thereto belonging for each French Man, taking the best Shallop they have first, such Shallop so serv'd to be ever after Preserv'd for the use of the first arriving Fishing Ships at that Place, and to be marked with a broad arrow this (arrow) on their Stems and Stern Posts and Numbered 1, 2, 3.

Given under my Hand at Greater St. Lawrence,

9th July 1765

Hugh Pallisser (signature)

Geo. Lacey **of Greater St. Lawrence**

Thomas Spearing **of " "**

Philip Trovey **of Grand Bank**

Ins O'Brien **at Fortune**

Abt. Goodwin and Bellon **at Grand Bank**

In Velit and Lvert **at Pass Island**

Bryant Flaharty **at Long Harbour**

Cleo Aldridge **at Fortune**

Porter

By Command of His Excellency Jn. Horsenail^{iv}

Judgments for Thos. Spearing, wife and 4 children **July 17, 1765**

Illegally trading with the French at St. Pierre and Miquelon. His punishments include quitting the country with his family and the men who accompanied him, and his fish, oil, and other effects and property being divided as stated. Their passageway will be paid as explained each through his wages. The account of his effects which were sold and divided accordingly is attached.^v

[Letter excerpt^{vi}](#)

in Examining the Clearances, Certificates and Cockets of all Vessels from the Continent arriving within your District, and upon no Account to Grant such Certificates Without being fully satisfied of the Quantity of Bond Goods that hath been actually Landed in this Country, and where you find a deficiency of any such Goods for which Bond hath been given and which can't be legally accounted for, or if you find any Goods on board any such Vessel, that are not specified in her Clearance and Cocket, Especially Foreign Goods, on due Proof of any such Vessel having been at St. Thomas Virgin Islands and Guadalupe since the 29th Sept. last, you are hereby authorized and directed to seize and detain in our Name such Vessels, also to seize any French or other Foreign Goods you may find in any Port in this Country whether in Boat or on shore with the Vessels and Boats in which they may be found, and secure the same till you can either deliver them into the custody of some of his Majesty's Ships or that you can carry them to Placencia, there to be proceeded against according to Law by the Deputy Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court there, and for your Encouragement herein, you are hereby Indebted to the Signer maker's Hand of any Vessels or Goods that you may lawfully seize in Pursuance of this Order.

Given &c. in Court. *St. Lawrence*
11th July 1765.

By Command of His Excellency. -

Mr. Garrison,

Hugh Callison

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser Esq: &c &c

To
 Christ's Garden Corp.
 by Perogable for the
 1st Coast of
 New Land with the
 rest to People to Land
 and with it to Land
 Rome. To the United to
 with this (cont. 1.

Whereas the Persons undermentioned have dealt with the French at the Islands of Pirrès & Miquelon, Contrary to Law, to the Kings Express Commands, and to the Publick Orders issued the Last Year forbidding it; I hereby Order and Direct as follows.

1. That they and all the Men that went with them to those Islands together with their Families, shall quit this Country.

2. That the Fish and Oil, on their respective Rooms and all other Effects shall be Divided as follows, the Servants Wages to be

All Stages, Cockrooms, Trains, Huts, Houses, and other
fishing conveniences now Possessed & Occupied by them, to
remain for the Use of Ship Fishers only, agreeable to the
Publick Order from me upon that Head of this Days date,
and all other Inhabitants of Newfoundland that may hereafter
be convicted before you of the like practices, you are to
proceed with them in the like manner. —

Given &c at Great St. Laurence
9th July 1765
John Patten

Am: (chien) - - - - - H: Fortune

M^{rs} Petit & Leger *St. Paps Island*

Edw. Aldridge - - - Esq. Fortuna

Porter Yes: but time his case to
 Nancy. be further eng^d into. —

By Emanc. & Co. Excellency.
Mr. Birnbaum.

Decree upon this Spring
of great Assurance for
ending with the French
see the record of the Acts
of 1701 and 1702
— (Cm)

His Excellency Hugh Phillips
 &c &c.

the 4th piercing of great St. Laurence having been convicted before me of dealing with the French at St. Pierre and Miquelon contrary to Law and to the King's Express Command, I hereby Order and Direct as follows.

That he and all the Men that went with him to
those, sit together with his Family, shall quit this Countrey

2. That the Fish and Oil on his Room, and his other Effects shall be Divided as follows, the Servants Wages due to this time to be first Paid, then so much as shall be Sufficient for paying the Passage of him, his Wife, and Child, to be Paid to the Ship, the Balance to the Master of the

To
Mr.
Gr
and
Pro

at the 14th Decr
Appt given up at 100.
New Facey at 2. 1/2 Decr.
Gover
can
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100
100

and his Family to England, together with all other Effects
in his Hands, to be proportionably divided amongst
his Creditors, the overplus if any to be paid to himself.
4. All Stages, Cookrooms, Trainsals, Houses and
other Fishing Conveniences now Occupied and used by
him, to remain for the use of Ship Fishers only agreeable
to the publick Order from me upon that head of this Day
Date.

Given Ye. at great B.
Lawrence 9th July 1765
Hugh Callister.

By Command of His Excellency.
M^r. Warrinall.

See the Decree in the foregoing Page. — In Account of the Speerings Effects sold and divided Pursuant to an Order on the other side.

Effects at Bill Price.
To Mr Mallet 23. Quint. wet Fish } 14. 17. 0
at 9th Appraisalment.
To D^r. 17 Quint. dry Fish } 25. 17. 0
at 11

Oil ----- 2. 00. 0

42. 14. 0

To be paid in brought from - } 29. 2. 0
the other side -

Remains, Bill - 13. 12. 0

The above 13. 12. 0 Bill brought } 17. 5. 0
into Trucks is

To Collop Materials belonging } 45. 0. 0
and to Capt. Mallet Appraisalment at

£ 62. 5. 0

The above £ 62. 5. 0 divided amongst the
Creditors in Proportion to their several
demands is as follows.

Cap^t Mallets Acc^t is 33. 0. 3 to be p^d £ 24. 10. 2
Mr Patrick D^r is 10. 16. 9 D^r - 8. 00. 10¹/₄
Mr Sparr D^r is 40. 00. 0 D^r - 29. 13. 11

£ 62. 05. 11¹/₄

To be paid in Bills
Capt. Mallets Wages to this } 10. 00. 0
time -
Deduct - 0. 18. 0
Bill - 9. 2. 0
The Speerings Wages to this } 8. 00. 0
time -
To Mr Peter Dorey Master
of the Ship for Exp^{ts} of
the Speering, his Wife &
Children at 40 each - } 12. 0. 0
Total at Bill Price - 20. 2. 0

To be paid at Truck Price

Mr Mallets Debt as p^d acc^t } 33. 0. 0
Noted and agreed to -
Mr Patrick Mallet D^r - 10. 16. 9
Mr Sparr - 40. 00. 0
£ 83. 17. 0

The above Account of the Sale & Distribution of the Effects of the Speering is
agreeable to my Order, and I hereby approve of and confirm the same, & further Order
that as in the above Acc^t Mr. Nich^l Mallet is p^d Purchaser of the Whole of the Fish at the

To the Command: Officer

of His Maj: Garrison at St. Anne's

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser
Whereas the Subjects of France from the Islands of P.
Pierres and Miquelon, continue to Encroach on His. Maj: Territories
at St. Anne's in this Country, and to Violate the Treaty of Peace by Fishing
to take care & watch on the Coast thereof out of the Limits prescribed by Treaty;
I have Orderd the Commanders of His. Maj: Ships on this Station
with their Effects to seize all French Vessels and Boats they meet with under the
above Circumstances, and to secure the same till His. Majestys
Pleasure shall be known.

You are hereby require and Directed, (on Application being
made to you by the Commanders of any of His. Maj: Ships) to
receive into your Port all the Tackle, Materials, and Effects
belonging to any such French Vessels, and keep them in some
place of security till you receive farther Directions from me, or
Application made to you for them by any Person with Authority
from me, or from the Captain at whose request you received them.

Given &c. in Great. Laurence
Harbour 17th July 1765.

By Command of His Excellency.
In: Her. mail.

Hugh Palliser

To the Fishing Admirals
at y^e Harbour of Laurence.
to see the Act of y^e 17th of
H. of Brit: 3. strictly
carry'd into execution

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser
You are hereby require and Directed, to see the Rules, and
Orders, Ordain'd by the Act of the 17th & 18th of William the 3.
for preserving Peace and good Government amongst the
Fishesmen and Fishermen in your Harbour, as well as a Fleet
as on, there carry'd & strictly into Execution.

Given &c. at Great. Laurence
17th July 1765.

By Command of His Excellency.
In: Her. mail.

Hugh Palliser

Decease upon Geo. Lacey,
wrote on the Back of a
Power of Attorney made
by him, to his brother
The Lacey of this date.

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser
The within named Geo. Lacey being taken out of
his foundation for having fished for the French at St. Peters and
Trafficked with them for French Goods and Manufactures, and
the Servants of the said Geo. Lacey and his Creditors having
consented to settle their respective Accounts with his brother The
Lacey who is named in the within Power of Att: hereby

The islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon had been British possessions for fifty years following the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. In July 1763, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Paris (1763), they were restored to the French. This was one way that the British treaty makers in London compensated the French for their loss of their territory in Canada- by giving the French *direct access* via St. Pierre and Miquelon to the very lucrative Grand Banks fishery of Newfoundland. The nebulous terms of the Treaty of Paris were much debated by Governor Hugh Palliser and his French counterpart Governor François-Gabriel d'Angeac of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Widely divergent interpretations of this Treaty of Paris caused a lot of friction in the area.

Thos. Spearin's eviction was punishment for his involvement in illegal trade with the merchants of Saint-Pierre. Palliser was determined to suppress all such trade. Spearin (and others) therefore became convenient examples in Palliser's campaign to put a stop to the trade.

As Hugh Palliser explained in a despatch to Lord Halifax dated 11 September 1765 (also in CO 194/27, pp. 122v-123), the residents of the Burin Peninsula and beyond were attracted to this highly illegal trade with the French because the merchants of Saint-Pierre sold them supplies and gear at *half the price* charged by British merchants in Newfoundland. ^{vii}

We can see that Thomas Spearing and his fellow settlers did not have an easy time with this Gov. Palliser. It is proven that Thos. continued to do business and returned to Newfoundland and prospered once the "helpful" governor was gone. Thomas Spearing evidently stayed there seasonally and returned to England annually as was the custom of the time. It was also common practice to have a fully laden ship on trips both ways across the Atlantic- the seasonally hired fishermen were returned to England and Ireland each winter and usually wintered there (at home). These fishermen had to pay for their return passage and this was usually deducted from their wages.

Gov. Palliser complained frequently about there being more Catholics than Protestants on the island of Newfoundland. He gave orders for the transport of numerous people back to the old countries- England and Ireland. Palliser did not want people to settle on the island of Newfoundland period (possibly detracting from the West Country fishery) and did everything in his power to discourage settlement.

For further examples of the creative Palliser policies go to:
http://nl.canadagenweb.org/links_irish.htm

The next experience that Thomas had with Governor Palliser was the loss of one of his shallops.

1768 14 Aug Thomas owned a shallop found at St. Pierre at anchor seized he inhab. of St. Lawrence 98-99GN 2/1/A [Microfilm Box No. 1] Vol. 4 1766-1771

14 Aug 1768 Exerpt from the original letter follows (top entry):^{viii}

39)
Tobago Island, contrary to the Act of the 4th Geo. 3. Cap. 15. which were carried
from him by the French at that Island, and the said Shallops being now
returned to this Country, one belonging to Thomas Spruening an Inhabitant
at St. Lawrence, the other to Francis Halls an Inhabitant at Martin, I
have ordered them to be raised, and desire you will proceed against the
said Shallops in your Court according to Law.

I am Sir &c. &c. —

Hugh Palliser

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser
&c. &c. —

Upon a doubt arisen between Will^{ts} Heaves & In^{ts} Henley &c.
concerning a right of preference to Build, or make Fishing Conveniences
upon a vacant spot below the Path next from Henley's present dwelling
House, towards Westerns present Storehouse: after hearing all that each has to
say, and duly considering what has been done by each; and regard being also
had to the within Instrument. I hereby Order and Decree as follows. —

That William Heaves, shall have the Liberty to Build,
cut out or make, any kind of Fishing Conveniences on the said vacant spot,
but if the said spot remains vacant, and unoccupied by the said Heaves for
the Fishery, untill the beginning of the next Fishing Season (Will^{ts}) on the
first day of June next, then the said Henley may Build thereon, & had
and use the same. —

By Order of His Excellency. —
Jn^{ts} Horsmahl, —

Given &c. in Court at St. Johns 16.
August 1768. —

Hugh Palliser

By His Excellency Hugh Palliser
&c. &c. —

In^{ts} Tilley of the Parish of Cister in the County of Down,
having represented to me, that he intends to erect Fishing Works in
Torbay, in this Island, on a vacant place where no such Works are now
standing, which was formerly occupied by one Peter Main, but hath laid
void several Years past, and prayed to be secured in the enjoyment
of such Works as he may Build, cut out and make, to his own use and
benefit. —

The said In^{ts} Tilley, is hereby Authorized, to Build,
cut out and make any Stages, Cockrooms, Trainsails, Slakes or other
Fishing Conveniences on the vacant place abovementioned, or on any other
vacant place (which is not Ships Room) and all the Stages, Cockrooms,
Trainsails, Slakes, and other Fishing Conveniences which he may so Build,
cut out and make, to his own use and Benefit, without any
disturbance of or from any Person or Persons whatever, according to the
Article of the Act of the 10th & 11th of William 3. commonly called the Fishing
Act, he conforming to the Rules prescribed by the said Act, particularly to

Gov. Hugh Palliser, Jonathan Horsnail (St. John's)

Michael Gill, Esq., Commissary of the Vice Admiralty Court (St. John's)

Lieutenant Graeme, Commander of the snow the Egmont, has stated that he seized the English shallops at anchor at St. Peters Island, contrary to the stated act. They were rescued from him by the French, are returned to this country, and belong to Thomas Spearing (St. Lawrence) and Francis Halls (Mortier). Orders for the shallops to be re-seized and proceeded against.^{ix}

Thomas apparently returned to Newfoundland and continued to carry on despite the previously documented set-backs. He was clearly no quitter! Thomas and his son John continued to flourish for a long time.

Thomas' overall effect on the town of St. Lawrence in Newfoundland is also considerable considering the business and employment that he created there.

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/newman-stlawrence-names2.shtml>^x

Thomas Spearing conducted a lot of business at Newman Company in St. Lawrence, NL and what follows are a sample of his records. He was quite active in the fishery and had a large operation judging from his transactions and the records – size and frequency. Here is a sampling of some 65 records from the Newman Company obtained at the Ottawa Archives. Note that these records are for two years 1789 and 1801-1802 and that his son John appeared to be working with him and sharing the business near the end of this period. John appeared to take over more responsibility as Thomas aged. Only the two of them are mentioned in the Newman files in those two years – **Thomas** and **John** with the surname **Spearing**; **so there is only evidence of there being the two of them** in the area in this time period (covered by the Newman Records) that spans a total of twelve years. (The quality is not wonderful as they are files that were copied from the two microfiche reels in March, 2014).^{xi xii}

J. Lawrence

(161)

July 30. 14

Dr. John Haulby

✓ 4th Soap - - - - - a q. 9
 ✓ 1/2 m Pine - - - - - 18 66

3
 9 3 9

13 Dr. Thomas Forrester

✓ 1st Leather - - - - - a q. 100
 ✓ 1st Sparacles - - - - - 1/2 90

42
 1

12 Dr. Edward Ryan

✓ 1st Ory. Petus Lines - - - - - 30/ 105
 ✓ 1st Tobacco d. d. Mahan - - - - - 18 107

1 10
 1 6 1 11 6

17 Dr. Thomas Spearing

✓ 8 Lines below P. & Petus a q. 105
 ✓ 4th f. Beans - - - - - 20/ 109
 ✓ 2 Pauls P. M. - - - - - 7/ 91
 ✓ 6 Green Molasses - - - - - 3/ 111
 ✓ 1st John Butter 11/10 - - - - - a q. 106
 ✓ 10 Tobacco - - - - - 18 107

1 4
 4
 7 10
 18
 2 12 6
 10 10 6

117

X

7

114

22

14

21

70

96

78

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144

171

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411

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17 Dr Thomas Spearing

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----|----|---|
| 1 lb Tobacco | 1/6 | 65 | 3 | |
| 1 Pair Shoes | 3/ | 31 | 8 | |
| 2 Cotton Shirts | 9/6 | 18 | 19 | |
| 1 Pair boys Shoes | 3/6 | 31 | 3 | 6 |
| 1 Pair Women's | 4/ | 31 | 2 | |
| 10 th Books | 1/ | 68 | 6 | |
| 18 Peter Lines | 2/6 | 35 | 2 | 5 |
| 10 th Tea | 4/ | 19 | | |

Dr. Mr. Carrington

(222)

1799

J. Lawrence

October

120

D^r Edward Ryan

To James Burns's Race of Hags

11/3

18 10

- 2^d Tobacco - - - -

11/1

121

3

17 10

140

D^r Thomas Spearing

- 2 Hatchets 8/6 - - - -

21/124

8 3

- To Price Christal 7c Pills - - - -

7/58

8

- Joseph Short - - - -

19

11 1

- Lash P^d ditto 20/ Dine - - - -

18 35

1 1 6

- 1 Taphlin Jacket - - - -

13/135

13

- 1 Petticoat - - - -

11/23

11

- 2 Cotton Shirts - - - -

9/6 96

19

- To James Newbery for Race of Hags

11/1

17 16 3

- Richard Hill - - - -

12/6

21 4 10

- 2^d Tobacco 7c J. Dunn - - - -

15 121

3

43 5 11

17

D^r Thomas Spearing- 1 Quail Small fish for C^d Thomas

12 6

- Price of each for 1 set, Simonet and

69

38 18

- Price of each for 2 sets, Simonet and

39 10 6

1749

J. Lawrence

(199)

May 17

Wm Thomas Sparring

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|---|---|---|
| ✓ 10. Blue Sack - - - - - | 46 | 35 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| ✓ 9 Peter Lines - - - - - | 3 | 47 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 3 Pair worst hosiery - - - - - | 24 | 61 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Pair Boots } in hosiery | 34 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Napkin Gackett (or Vb) - - - - - | 46 | 96 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Cotton Shirt - - - - - | 46 | 57 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 2 Cotton handkerchiefs etc. - - - - - | 3 | 70 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 3 yards Linen & etc. - - - - - | 3 | 47 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 2 Pair worst hosiery etc. - - - - - | 7 | 43 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Hall N. - - - - - | 24 | 61 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Pair Boots or Gumm - - - - - | 21 | 36 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Bear Gackett - - - - - | 46 | 96 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Cotton Shirt } etc. - - - - - | 3 | 98 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 7 yards Flannels - - - - - | 4 | 28 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 2 Pair short Trowsers - - - - - | 3 | 28 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Pair long etc. - - - - - | 4 | 28 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 2 yards Flannels - - - - - | 4 | 28 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| ✓ 1 Pair Gloves - - - - - | 4 | 28 | 1 | 9 | 6 |

18 1 6

The name was very rare on the island (as is now) and was only found in St .Lawrence so it was not too difficult to track Thomas and John down in the archives. Thos. and John Spearing continued to do business with Newmans in St .Lawrence in the early 1800's so it is certain that this is indeed our Thomas's son.

From the Newman files- a few samples of records of John Spearing^{xiii xiv}

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-----|---|----|---|-------|
| 10 Gallons Molasses | 27/0 | 105 | 1 | " | " | " |
| Q ^d 100 Pounds | 3/ | 111 | 1 | 10 | " | 5 |
| 2 1/2 Gallons | 1/6 | 101 | " | 4 | 6 | " |
| Q ^d John Spearing | | | | | | |
| 1/2 Price Sugar | | 57 | " | 8 | " | " |
| 1/2 Price Sugar | 21/ | 109 | 1 | 1 | " | " |
| 1/2 Price Sugar | 9 | 57 | " | 15 | " | 2 1/2 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|---|----|--------|---|
| St Lawrence 1 st January 1811 | | | | | | |
| Dr John Spearing | | | | | | |
| 10 Gallons Linseed | 2/ | 64 | " | 9 | " | " |
| 10 Pans Herring Salt curing | 2/ | 4 | " | 2 | " | " |
| 1/2 Gallon Sweet Oil | 10/ | 37 | " | 5 | 3 | " |
| 1/4 — Linseed | 10/ | 58 | " | 1 | 7 1/2 | " |
| Q ^d H | | | | 17 | 10 1/2 | " |

| 1789 | | H. Lawrence | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|---|--|--|
| October 120 | Dr Thomas Spearing | | | | | |
| | To R. Houtace. Appt for 1/4 Duty of 1/2 m | 50 | 1 | 1 | | |
| | " Edward White of Murphy | 18 | | 5 | | |
| | " John Spearing do | 7 | | 5 | | |
| | " Edward Ryan of Dugan | 33 | | 5 | | |
| | " T. Hobbes - do | 15 | 2 | 3 | | |
| | and Dr D. " | | | | | |

Newman Sample Records

This assertion is collaborated by the dates of the previous Newman Company records and more overtly in Randysroots at the Grand Bank heritage site.^{xv}

Spearing, Probably John b. ABT 1775

Father: Spearing, Thomas

SPEARING, Ellen b. 1794 m. Lawrence Slaney
 SPEARING, Suzanne b. 1795 m. Andrew Strang
 SPEARING, Mary b. 1802 m. John Walsh
 SPEARING, Bridget b. 1804 m. Patrick Haley
 SPEARING, Sarah b. 1812 m. Matthew Cusick
 SPEARING, Frances b. 1816 m. Patrick Collins
 SPEARING, John b. 1819 m1 Elizabeth Clarke m2 Catherine Clarke
 SPEARING, Joseph b. 1820 m. Mary Clarke
 SPEARING, Robert b. 1822 m. Bridget Molloy
 SPEARING, Michael b. 1823 m. Catherine Turpin



John Spearing b 1819 *Photo Courtesy of Rick Edwards.*

Note: Spelling of surname changed by 1867 to present form in official records in NL

Records of Thomas and his son John Spearing and other Spearings can also be found in the Matthews Name Files at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Department of Maritime History, St. John's. Here are a few samples of his transactions from the Keith Matthews "Spearing" Name Files.^{xvi}

<https://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/keith/>

<https://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/keith/s.php> **Spearing S041** Am including the *translation* for each entry.

Sample Matthew Name File Records

Translation in *italics*.

S-41 B Thomas^{xvii}

Spiring 1790 27 dec tpshm wharf 67 qtr oats tpshm-london on ann marther

Topsham wharf quarts of oats Topsham to London on a ship named Ann Marther

Spyring 1791 feb tpshm rec thos wine exm fm Lisbon (others)

Topsham Records Thomas wine from Lisbon

Spyring 1731 29 mar wharf journ Thos at Exon gets wine from Cadiz on new provs (others)

Wharf journal Thomas at Exon gets wine from Cadiz on New Provs

Spearing 1802 dec newm journ/bill to Thos 100 pounds by Woolcott sent bodley.

Newman Journal Bill to Thomas for 100 pounds by Woolcott delivered in person.

1802? Newm journ Thos Bill on Bird/Son sent Bird by RN

Newman Journal Bill to Thomas on Bird/Son (Account Books of Thomas Street Bird and Joseph Street Bird) Thomas Street Bird Letter Book found in the Great Britain chancery Records c108) sent from Bird via the Royal Navy

S-41 D John^{xviii}

Speering 1802 decnewm journ bill to John sixty pounds by Woolcott sent bodley

Newman Journal bill to John sixty pounds sent in person by Woolcott

Spearing 1810 jan newm journ John bill on Bird sent bird

Newman Journal bill to John sent by Bird/Son

Spearing 1811 june newmjourn John bill on bird sent bird by rn

Newman Journal bill on Bird/son sent via the Royal Navy

Suspect that both Thomas and John are relations of William Spyring also mentioned in the Spearing name file. Voyages to Newfoundland and the southern USA seem to be quite routine for the Spearings mentioned in the Spearing name file.

S41C- William^{xix}

Spyring 1744 jan adm 7/84 William “Gib” 60/8 exon-med. TPshhm capt.

Great Britain Admiralty and Secretariat Adm 7 Vol#. Miscellanea “Gibralter” was the name of his ship and it was 60 feet long and had a crew of 8. Exon to Mediterranean. William was a Topsham sea captain.

Spyring ^{xx}

Spyring in Newfoundland

1741 15 Jan Lloyd list Fra gib fm nfld

Spyring Jan 15 1741 “Frances” To Gibraltar from Newfoundland

1741 25 May Lloyd list fra leg fm nfld

Spyring May 25 1741 “Frances” To Leghorn, Italy from Newfoundland

1744 Mar Lloydlist news grace aporto fm Tpshhm

Spyring March 1744 Lloydlist News “Grace” to Oporto, Portugal from Topsham

Have to check the crew list for the “Frances” (if it exists) and see if it provides any clues as this ship made trips from Newfoundland to various other points and was captained by a Spearing.

NOTES Speculative information and observations

Also have one record from Lloyd’s of London in 1790 that may pertain to our Thos.

Also have a deed that possibly pertains to our Thos.

Lloyd’s of London record^{xxi}

p.151

...knege Spearing T SmlnJ T.P-ny RThorle Thr.ParUi Terri qiDB 23°i N.Uniack William.
Wrglfw.-: |J. Watt PG. Jacks Madgwik S. Lee J Anderfn Sr sC J. Adams 89 J. Brown G.Braiiiey
T.Furnell; A. Lyon S. Ley !Ŷ£-M&mn et "«Д. D Morgan D.Ninian »6i|Cheltr • DB S»
78|Gtnbr’; • DI Sh’lds i ro loi 82 SD tool Sndr...

The dates seem to fit periods when Thos.1 may have been in England.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Repository | Somerset Heritage Centre |
| Level | Item |
| Ref No | DD\RR/17 |
| Title | Mill Estate deeds. |
| Description | <p>Relating to Moor Mill Estate otherwise Coniger Estate</p> <p>1769. August 23rd Indenture of Mortgage made between David Spearing and Thomas Spearing (1) and John Butt (2).</p> <p>1782. April 12th Indenture of Assignment made between the said J Butt (1) the said T Spearing (2) and Samuel Scott (3).</p> <p>1786. April 11th, 12th Indenture of Lease and Release latter made between the said T Spearing (1) and Thomas Card (2).</p> <p>1786. April 12th Indenture of Assignment made between the said S Scott (1) the said T Spearing (2) the said T Card (3) and Samuel Card (4).</p> <p>1794. August 7th Indenture of Further Change made between Thomas Spearing (1) and Samuel Scott (2).</p> |
| Date | 1769-1838 |

Notes on Moor Mill Farm

To see details on property go to the attached website.

<http://www.zoopla.co.uk/property-history/moor-mill-farm/lydeard-st-lawrence/taunton/ta4-3rg/28201820>

Location Lydeard, **St.Lawrence**, Taunton, Somerset Note

Possible birth certificates for Thos.1 and John1 (the dates do fit and the documentary evidence of *where* Thos and John did business) but we need still need further information establishing a direct and unequivocal link with one of these Spearings.

It is strongly suspected based on the evidence that these Spearings are related to the ones in Topsham (the port sector of Exeter). One could also postulate further that Spearings in Somerset, Devon and Dorset are all related based on the geographical proximity of these areas.

#1 Thomas Spyring^{xxiii}

England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8)

Name: Thomas Spyring

Event Type: Baptism

Christening Date: 29 Oct 1740

Christening Place: Exeter, Devon

Father's Name: [John Spyring](#)

Mother's Name: [Mary Spyring](#)

Affiliate Publication Number: RG4_0336

#2

Name: John Spiring^{xxiv}

Event Type: Baptism

Christening Date: 25 Oct 1773

Christening Place: Exeter, Devon

Father's Name: Thomas Spiring

Mother's Name:

Affiliate Publication Number: RG4_033

Also have a couple of births from Dorset that match the date range^{xxv}

Children of David and Grace? SPEARING (both baptised @ Holy Trinity, Saftesbury):

#3 Thomas SPEARING baptised 23 July 1735

#4 John SPEARING baptised 3 February 1740 *possible uncle of John Spearing1?*

Author P.Spearns

pspearns@yahoo.com

November 17, 2014

Endnotes

-
- ⁱ Edwards, Ena “ A Short History of the Town of St. Lawrence “ p. 1, dated Oct 10, 1979
- ⁱⁱ http://www2.swgc.mun.ca/nfld_history/CO194/CO194-27.htm
- ⁱⁱⁱ Provincial Archives Of Newfoundland, St. John’s, Newfoundland Colonial Secretary’s Letterbook (Microfilm Box 1) GN2/1A Volume3 1759-1765 Affidavit by Thos. Sperin June 20, 1765
- ^{iv} Colonial Office Records, Public Office, London CO194 16 v84-85 Order for arrest of Thos. Spearing and several other English settlers for trading with the French 09 July, 1765 Attached letter transcribed by P.Spearns Feb 9, 2000
- ^v http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/GN2-1-A-3.htm p.294,295
- ^{vi} http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/GN2-1-A-3.htm p.294,295 Attached Palliser letter July 11, 1765
- ^{vii} Janzen, Dr. Olaf email dated Tuesday, April 29, 2014 and personal conversation July 3rd, 2014 Interpretation of his historical information
- ^{viii} http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/GN2-1-A-4.htm Attached letter dated August 16, 1768
- ^{ix} http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/GN2-1-A-4.htm 14 Aug 1768 p. 98-99
- ^x <http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/newman-stlawrence-names2.shtml>
- ^{xi} Newman Reference Books, Messrs. Hunt, Rooper Etc, London. Photographed by Booker 4/8/54. Kodak Ltd Recordek Division London Robert Newman Co, Dartmouth, Journal 24 St.Laurence, Newfoundland , Goods Supplied 1788-1789 Copy made on behalf of the Public Archives of Canada, Excerpts scanned from Microfiche Ottawa, March, 2014 by P. Spearns
- ^{xii} Newman Reference Books, Messrs. Hunt, Rooper Etc, London. Photographed by Booker 4/8/54. Kodak Ltd Recordek Division London Robert Newman Co, Dartmouth, St. Laurence, Newfoundland , Cashbook 1800-1801 Microfilm #57A Copy made on behalf of the Public Archives of Canada. Excerpts copied from Microfiche Ottawa, March, 2014 by P. Spearns
- ^{xiii} Newman Reference Books, Messrs. Hunt, Rooper Etc, London. Photographed by Booker 4/8/54. Kodak Ltd Recordek Division London Robert Newman Co, Dartmouth, Journal 24 St.Laurence, Newfoundland , Goods Supplied 1788-1789 Copy made on behalf of the Public Archives of Canada, Excerpts scanned from Microfiche Ottawa, March, 2014 by P. Spearns

^{xiv} Newman Reference Books, Messrs. Hunt, Rooper Etc, London. Photographed by Booker 4/8/54. Kodak Ltd Recordek Division London Robert Newman Co, Dartmouth, St. Laurence, Newfoundland, Cashbook 1800-1801 Microfilm #57A Copy made on behalf of the Public Archives of Canada. Excerpts copied from Microfiche Ottawa, March, 2014 by P. Spearns

^{xv} http://randysroots.100webpace.net/ef_1135.htm#7

^{xvi} Spearing General File S-41, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. Scanned file on July 11, 2014.

^{xvii} Spearing, Thomas File S-41 B, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. P. Spearns scanned file on July 11, 2014.

^{xviii} Spearing, John File S-41 D, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. P. Spearns scanned file on July 11, 2014.

^{xix} Spearing, William File S-41 D, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. P. Spearns scanned file on July 11, 2014.

^{xx} Matthews Name File "Spyring", Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland St. John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. Scanned file on July 11, 2014.

^{xxi} Lloyd's register of shipping. 1790. - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library | HathiTrust Digital Library

^{xxii} <http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=168-ddrr&cid=-1&Gsm=2012-06-18#-1>

^{xxiii} "England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8), 1588-1977," index, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FWVW-WBD : accessed 11 Oct 2014), Thomas Spyryng, 29 Oct 1740, Baptism; citing p. 11, Exeter, Devon, record group RG4, Public Record Office, London. Name: John Spiring

^{xxiv} "England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8), 1588-1977," index, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FQ11-38F : accessed 11 Oct 2014), Thomas Spiring in entry for John Spiring, 25 Oct 1773, Baptism; citing p. 17, Exeter, Devon, record group RG4, Public Record Office, London.

^{xxiv} "England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8), 1588-1977," index, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FWVW-WBD> : accessed 11 Oct 2014), Thomas Spyring, 29 Oct 1740, Baptism; citing p. 11, Exeter, Devon, record group RG4, Public Record Office, London. Name: John Spiring

^{xxiv} "England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8), 1588-1977," index, <i>FamilySearch</i>
(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FQ11-38F> : accessed 11 Oct 2014), Thomas Spiring in entry for John Spiring, 25 Oct 1773, Baptism; citing p. 17, Exeter, Devon, record group RG4, Public Record Office, London

^{xxv} <http://www.opcdorset.org/GillinghamFiles/GillinghamBaps4.htm> Parish of Gillingham **BAPTISMS 1735 – 1749** *These records transcribed from the Parish Registers by Jan Genge Kennedy July 2003*

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Colonial Office Records, Public Office, London CO194 72-75v Discussion of testimony of several individuals to Governor Hugh Palliser

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Newman Reference Books, Messrs. Hunt, Rooper Etc, London. Photographed by Booker 4/8/54. Kodak Ltd Recordex Division London Robert Newman Co, Dartmouth, Journal 24 St.Laurence, Newfoundland , Goods Supplied 1788-1789 Copy made on behalf of the Public Archives of Canada, Excerpts scanned from Microfiche Ottawa, March, 2014.

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Provincial Archives Of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland Colonial Secretary's Letterbook (Microfilm Box 1) GN2/1A Volume3 1759-1765 p.292-295 Letter 09 July 9, 1765 Exile of Thos and men who accompanied him and confiscation of their goods.

Provincial Archives Of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland Colonial Secretary's Letterbook (Microfilm Box 1) GN2/1A Volume3 1759-1765 Affidavit by Thos. Sperin June 20, 1765. Attached

Provincial Archives Of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland Colonial Secretary's Letterbook (Microfilm Box 1) GN2/1A Volume4 1776-1771 p.98-99 Letter 14 August, 1768.

Spearing General File S-41, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St.John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. Scanned file on July 11, 2014.

Spearing, Thomas File S-41 B, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St.John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. Scanned file on July 11, 2014.

Spearing, John File S-41 D, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St.John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. Scanned file on July 11, 2014.

Spearing, William File S-41 D, Keith Matthews' Name Files, Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St.John's, NL. Should be accompanied by Keith Matthews Name Files Abbreviation Guide. Scanned file on July 11, 2014.

Internet Resources

Memorial University of Newfoundland links.

*These were all researched and checked at both the Corner Brook and St. John's campuses of Memorial University, summer 2014 .
Most documents in microfiche format were available at the Provincial Archives at the Rooms in St.John's, NL (also available in the
National Archives in London, England)*

http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/index.htm

http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/GN2-1-A-3.htm

<https://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/keith/abbreviations/namefilesguide.php>

http://www2.grenfell.mun.ca/nfld_history/letterbook/GN2-1-A-4.htm

http://www2.swgc.mun.ca/nfld_history/CO194/CO194-27.htm

http://www2.swgc.mun.ca/nfld_history/CO194/CO194-16.htm

Other Links

http://nl.canadagenweb.org/links_irish.htm

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/newman-stlawrence-names2.shtml>

http://randysroots.100webspaces.net/ef_1135.htm#7

<http://www.zoopla.co.uk/property-history/moor-mill-farm/lydeard-st-lawrence/taunton/ta4-3rg/28201820>

Speculative Connection- Links

<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000057051> *Lloyd's register of shipping 1790*

<http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=168-ddrr&cid=-1&Gsm=2012-06-18#-1>

Register of deed held jointly by Thomas and David Spearing

Birth Certificates

"England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8), 1588-1977," index, <i>FamilySearch</i>

(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FQ11-38F> : accessed 11 Oct 2014), Thomas Spiring in entry for John Spiring, 25 Oct 1773, Baptism; citing p. 17, Exeter, Devon, record group RG4, Public Record Office, London.

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<http://www.opcdorset.org/GillinghamFiles/GillinghamBaps4.htm> Parish of Gillingham **BAPTISMS 1735 – 1749** *Records transcribed from the Parish Registers by Jan Genge Kennedy July 2003*
