

**A CONCISE HISTORY AND  
DESCRIPTION OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND, BEING A KEY  
TO THE CHART OF THE ISLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649346523

A concise history and description of Newfoundland, being a key to the chart of the Island by F. R. Page

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

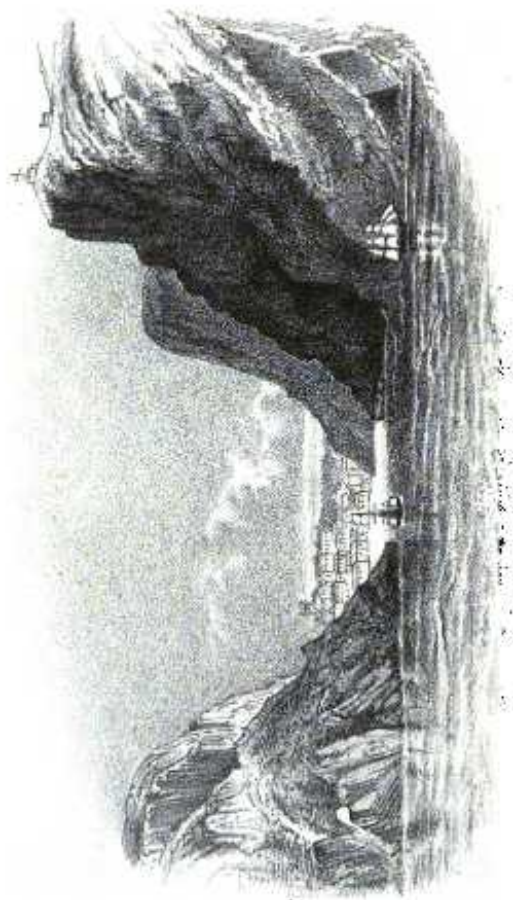
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**F. R. PAGE**

**A CONCISE HISTORY AND  
DESCRIPTION OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND, BEING A KEY  
TO THE CHART OF THE ISLAND**





ENTRANCE TO ST. JOHN'S N. F.

A  
CONCISE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF

NEWFOUNDLAND,

BEING A KEY TO THE

CHART OF THE ISLAND

JUST PUBLISHED.

BY F. R. PAGE,

LAND SURVEYOR, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

LONDON:  
R. H. LAURIE, 53, FLEET STREET.

1860.

## P R E F A C E.

---

THE object of the present work is to supply a want felt by almost every visitor; it treats of what has heretofore been but little known, namely, the origin, character, extent, and capabilities of Newfoundland, &c. The frequent inquiries made by American and European travellers, as also residents, for such information, as well as the great injustice to the colony, in allowing it to remain so little known to the world at large, has induced the Author to publish, in a condensed form, a History and Chart of the island. The superiority of Newfoundland over that of any other of her Majesty's British North American Colonies, as regards geographical position, its nursery for seamen, and the abundant and never-failing resources of the fisheries, will be apparent to all. Great care has been taken, in the compilation, to select from the most reliable sources, and the impartial observations of the Author, during a residence of nearly forty years. The work will be found very useful for schools, and the low price will place it within the reach of every one.

The table of Contents and Appendix will show the authorities on which the work is based: that it may be found both useful and instructive, is the object and desire of

THE AUTHOR.

*St. John's, Newfoundland, 1859.*

## CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I.—HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND . . . . .	1
II.—DESCRIPTION OF ABORIGENES . . . . .	9
III.—SUBSEQUENT HISTORY . . . . .	15
IV.—DESCRIPTION OF THE BEACON . . . . .	31
V.—DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR, WITH MOUNTAINS, LAKES, PONDs, ETC., AND INCLUDING GEOLOGICAL PECU- LIARITIES . . . . .	37
VI.—CONCLUDING CHAPTER (MISCELLANEOUS) . . . . .	46

### APPENDIX.

PILOTAGE, RATES OF, IN AND OUT OF THE HARBOUR . . . . .	50
LIGHT DUES, SCALE OF, WITH CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS . . . . .	61
LIGHTS, DESCRIPTION OF, NORTH OF ST. JOHN'S HARBOUR . . . . .	52
LIGHTS, DESCRIPTION OF, SOUTH OF ST. JOHN'S HARBOUR . . . . .	54
LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES, TABLE OF, FOR THE PRINCIPAL HEADLANDS . . . . .	55
POSTAL ROUTES, FROM ST. JOHN'S, SOUTH AND WEST OF THE ISLAND . . . . .	56
POSTAL ROUTES, FROM ST. JOHN'S, NORTH OF THE ISLAND . . . . .	56
LA MANCHE LEAD MINE, PROFESSOR SHEPHERD'S REPORT ON THE . . . . .	57
DISTANCES, TABLE OF, NORTHERN ROUTE . . . . .	61, 62
DISTANCES, TABLE OF, SOUTHERN ROUTE . . . . .	63, 64
FISH AND OILS, ETC., RETURNS OF QUANTITY AND VALUE FOR 1836, 1845, 1857, and 1858 . . . . .	65
VESSELS, NUMBER OF, INWARDS AND OUTWARDS, FOR SAME DATES . . . . .	66
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, VALUE OF FOR SAME DATES . . . . .	66



THE  
HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

---

CHAPTER I.

HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE island of Newfoundland is situated east of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, which separate it from the American continent on its western side, its north being bounded by the Straits of Belle Isle, which are about from ten to twenty miles wide, its eastern and southern shores being washed by the waters of the Atlantic. It lies between the latitudes of  $46^{\circ} 37'$  and  $51^{\circ} 40'$  North, and the longitudes of  $52^{\circ} 41'$  and  $59^{\circ} 31'$  West.

The discovery of this large island has been variously stated; both as to time and person; but the following account, taken from a work by Mr. St. John (formerly of this country, but now of the United States, and whose historical researches have always been favourably viewed), may, perhaps, be considered as approaching pretty near to certainty.

In an introductory chapter to his "Catechism of Newfoundland," he says:—"It was long rumoured that the continent of America had been known to Europeans hundreds of years prior to the time of Columbus. Traditionary tales of transatlantic voyages performed by the Scandinavians in the tenth century were handed down from father to son for many generations. Some of these, it must be confessed, were so vague and marvellous, as wholly to belong to the region of fable, while others were set forth with such minuteness of detail, and accompanied by so many statements of an astronomical as well as geographical character, all agreeing with indubitable facts brought to light by subsequent discovery, that it was difficult to evade the force of evidence which such accumulated testimonies set before us."

At the instance, we believe, of that venerable philosopher and eminent scientific traveller, the late Alexander Von Humboldt, this curious and interesting question has been investigated afresh by the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; and it would certainly appear, from the researches of these celebrated men, notwithstanding the obscurities of certain portions of the narratives which claimed their attention, that the North Atlantic had been crossed on several occasions at this early period, first accidentally, and from stress of weather, by which the voyagers were carried westward, far

beyond the limits of their destined haven; and afterwards by the voluntary undertaking of enterprising men who, like their renowned successors, Columbus and Cabot, fearlessly launched away upon the bosom of the deep in quest of distant and unexplored regions. The earliest account on record, among the numerous documents to which the above-named society had access, is that performed by one Biarne, son of Heriulf Bardson, a follower of Eric the Red, who, in 968, emigrated from Iceland to Greenland, where he formed a settlement. Biarne happened to be absent on a voyage to Norway at the time of his father's removal, but on his return home he immediately resolved to rejoin his parent, though unacquainted with the sea which he had to traverse. The result of this bold attempt is circumstantially narrated in the before-named documents, and we cannot do better than quote the substance of those papers, as given in the "London Geographical Journal" for 1838:—

"They (Biarne and attendants) set sail, but met with northerly winds and fogs, and after many days' sailing they knew not whither they had been carried. When the weather again cleared up, they at last saw a land which was without mountains, overgrown with wood, and having many gentle elevations. As this land did not correspond to the description of Greenland, they left it to larboard, and continued sailing two days, when they saw another land, which was