

B R E H A U T,

A sketch Historical and Otherwise,

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GUERNSEY, whence our ancestor emigrated to Prince Edward Island, is the second in size and importance of the channel Islands, lying between England and France. It is nine miles long, its greatest breadth six miles, circumference thirty-one miles, acreage 14,000, and its population in 1881, 32,659. It is said to be the most densely populated place in Europe.

These islands at the Norman Conquest in 1066 were a part of Normandy, and from that time until the reign of Henry the Second were alternately English and Norman, since which period their allegiance has been to the British Crown. Guernsey is said to have been given a constitution by King John, and it has complete self-government.

The climate of Guernsey is very fine, and of late years the principal industry has been the raising of vegetables for the English markets. The island might be termed one huge hothouse. In our ancestors' time, however, the main reliance of the inhabitants was the wine business. Wines were brought from France and Spain in large casks, and after ripening, were transferred to smaller measures and shipped to points in Great Britain and elsewhere.

The cause of the decline of the wine industry in Guernsey, and the consequent emigration of many of the inhabitants, among them our ancestors, is best told in the following extract from Barbet's Guernsey Guide, printed in 1842:

"During the whole of the 18th century trade had considerably increased, as independently of privatterring and the vast supply of brandy and tobacco to British smugglers, a considerable traffic arose from the island being, previous to the introduction of the bonding system in England, a place of deposit for wines and other foreign goods, to be afterwards legally shipped to Great Britain. The large and excellent vaults, reckoned some of the best in Europe, the climate of Guernsey, which was favorable for the ripening of wines, and the proximity of the island of Great Britain, rendered it extremely advantageous to the British merchant as a depot by saving him a large outlay in the payment of duties levied on importations during war. The bonding system procuring him afterwards every facility of a depot at home, with the advantage of having his merchandise under his own eyes, Guernsey was of course soon deprived of a most lucrative branch of its commerce.

"In 1805 the trade in spirits and tobacco, which English smugglers purchased here rather than at Roscoff or other French ports, was placed under such restrictions as, with the assistance of the local authorities, very shortly prevented any illicit commerce with the Mother Country. So extensively had the trade been carried on that in Guernsey alone there were in 1805 no less than 600 coopers employed in making small casks. The charge of smuggling so often brought against the islanders must have been founded on ignorance or prejudice. The smuggling was not carried on by

natives, but by English men - these came to the island, brought their boats into the harbor or roadstead, purchased spirits from Guernsey merchants, paid down their cash, and so far as the Guernseymen were concerned, the transaction ended."

The same authority says: "The population continued to increase until 1805, when the acts for the prevention of smuggling, and the decrease of privaterring in consequence of the all but total destruction of the French marine, produced an emigration which continued in some slight degree to the end of the war."

During 1898 - 1899 the writer corresponded with John DeG. Brehaut, secretary of the tramway company of Guernsey, and received from him many interesting particulars about the modern island. He interested the Rev. Mr. Lee, the rector of St. Peter's Port, to look up the church records to find what he could of interest to our branch of the family. The clergyman's letter to Mr. Brehaut, and transmitted by the latter to me, is as follows:

"The registers of the town only take back the Brehauts - or at least the branch in question to about the year 1737. You will see a family tree below which our books prove. Probably the first Henry came from one of the higher parishes, for there have always been many of the name at St. Saviour's, St. Peter's and Forteval, and I see that a Henry Brehaut, son of Pierre and of Rachel Blondell, was baptized at St. Saviour's in February, 1890. The story about the Brehauts having come from France after the St. Bartholomew's massacre is all nonsense. They were well established in Guernsey at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ centuries earlier.

"In the 'Etute' of Edward the Third (A. D. 1331) I find a Thomas Brehaut in St. Andrews; a John Brehaut, son of Rouf, and a John Brehaut, son of William, both Forteval. In 1467 Maitre Simon Brehaut is mentioned in a deed of which I have a copy, as the lately deceased rector of St. Martin's. In deeds at the Greffe, I find that in 1484 there was a Philip Brehaut, at St. Saviour's; in 1499 there was a Pierre, son of Jean, at St. Peter's, and a Leonard in the last named parish. After this I find many too numerous to mention.

"In 1653 John Brehaut of Forteval and Pierre Brehaut were two of five jurats deposed by the Parliament. In May, 1661, John was reinstated as senior jurat, and in May, 1663, he was made judge delegee, with Mr. Pierre Carey as his assistant. The name is a Norman one, but its meaning I do not know. I hope these facts will interest your kinsman. Yours faithfully, G. E. Lee."

The family tree spoken of by Mr. Lee is as follows:

1. - Henry Brehaut married Marie Maillard.
2. - Henry Brehaut, son of the foregoing, (born 1738) married Elizabeth Brehaut, daughter of Nicholas, in 1762. Children - Henry, born 1767; Esther Potter, born 1770; Elizabeth, born 1771, and Jean, born 1773.
3. - Henry Brehaut, son of the foregoing, married (not in St. Peter's Port) Elizabeth Fulham. Children - Henry, born 1792; Daniel, 1792; Thomas Smith, 1796; Elizabeth, 1798; Matthew, 1802; and James, 1804.

The three remaining children - Margaret, Joseph and Charlotte - were born in Murray Harbor.

A History of Guernsey, by William Berry, 1815, says that in 1598 Peter Brehaut was appointed a jurat; in 1637, John Brehaut; in 1648, Peter Brehaut, and in 1661, John Brehaut of Forteval. It also gives an account of the deposing of John Brehaut and Pierre Brehaut as jurats on Monday, Aug. 29, 1653, and their subsequent restoration, referred to by Mr. Lee.

In Barbet's Guernsey Guide, 1842, mention is made of the residence of Mrs. Brehaut, called Richmond House, as one of the finest residences of Guernsey.

Henry Brehaut's father, he who married Elizabeth Brehaut in 1762, was a captain and owned a vessel that plied between Southampton and Guernsey, called by the natives a Southampton trader. There is a tradition that he died while comparatively a young man and while his vessel was on a trip. Let us hope that he always interviewed the Customs officers when landing cargoes of wine and tobacco in England.

Henry Brehaut was married in 1791, to Elizabeth Pulham, of English parentage. It has previously been the belief of the writer that she was a native of Guernsey, but in view of Mr. Lee's statement that the marriage did not take place in St. Peter's Port, it seems open to doubt, or perhaps they were married elsewhere on the Island. Elizabeth in her youth learned dressmaking and millinery and later clerked in Vardon's store. She was very well educated, as was her husband, and had attended dancing school in her youth. In 1897 the late Thomas Brehaut of the White Sands was the possessor of a silver cream pitcher marked with the initials "E. P." which was an engagement present from Henry to Elizabeth. Thomas was the oldest grandchild and the pitcher was given to him by his grandmother when he was a little boy.

Henry was a cooper, as were the majority of the ablebodied men of Guernsey, and he had frequently worked at his trade in the vineyards of France and Spain. When the business began to decline at the beginning of the 19th century he and a number of his neighbors decided to emigrate to the New World, and Prince Edward Island was the place selected. With their families and all their belongings they set sail, probably from Southampton, early in the year 1806, their vessel being convoyed by a man-of-war owing to the war between England and France. It is said that Henry's capital when he left Guernsey was 300 guineas. No doubt many of his descendents would be pleased to be able to lay their hands on a similar sum today.

John T. Mellish in his History of Methodism in Charlottetown, P. E. I., says that in May, 1806, seventy-three men, women and children arrived in Charlottetown from Guernsey. The diary of Benjamin Chappell, the first postmaster at Charlottetown, has the following entries in 1806:

"May 15 - Arrived this afternoon the ship from Guernsey.

"June 3 - The Guernsey people go to Murray Harbor - eight families of them."

Seven of the eight families were the Brehauts, LeLacheurs, Roberts, Taudvins, Machons, Marquands and DeJerseys. Another family on the ship was Henry Brehaut's sister Elizabeth and her husband, Captain Fallow, who settled at Bay Fortune.

And now a glance at Murray Harbor as it was when our ancestors settled here one hundred years ago. The first census of Prince Edward Island, taken in 1798 by order of his Excellency Governor Fanning, gives as the sole residents of Lot 64 Nicholas Hugh, with a family of three; William Sencabaugh, with a family of five, and Mrs. Foster, with a family of five. These were all American Loyalists.

In the memoirs of the Rev. James McGregor, D. D., 1859, occurs the following, relating to a trip the Doctor made to Prince Edward Island in 1806:

"It was on this occasion he first visited Murray Harbor. There were at that time only three actual settlers besides the hands connected with a fishing establishment set up by Mr. Cambridge the year previous. Early in that spring (1806) a number of families immigrated from Guernsey and were at that time living in Mr. Cambridge's store, upon a point in the Harbor still commonly known as the "Old Store Point" where the Harbor Beacon now stands. These were all the inhabitants at that time. His preaching took place at the house of Mr. James Irving, a Dumfriesshire Presbyterian. The immigrants from Guernsey were generally Episcopalians, considerably tinged with Arminianism through the teaching of John Wesley. The doctor's ministrations were very acceptable to them. They subsequently took land in the place and were the ancestors of a large portion of the present population. It is believed that his attention to them at the early stage of the settlement was the means which led the adherence of many of them and their descendants still to Presbyterianism.

"It may be mentioned that after this date the population of Murray Harbor increased rapidly as Mr. Cambridge in that year built a large establishment of mills and commenced a trade in lumber which gave employment to a number of persons who ultimately took up land in the neighborhood, and immigrants poured in from various quarters. The doctor visited them on various occasions, but exact particulars of his visits we have not been able to gather. It is sufficient to say that his visits were the means of cherishing them as a congregation till they were able to obtain a minister of their own."

The above was furnished to Dr. McGregor's biographer by the Rev. Neil McKay, pastor of the Murray Harbor Presbyterian Church about 1859.

Before leaving Guernsey, Henry Brehaut and John LeLacheur purchased land situated on the East river near Mt. Stewart, about 14 miles from Charlottetown, then called the Hillsborough Lands. On their arrival they visited the land but did not like the outlook, and considered they had purchased a gold brick. Henry and his wife, Elizabeth, transferred this land to Lawrence C. Worthy on Sept. 17, 1845, and it was registered on Sept. 18th. It consisted of 140 acres and was situated in Township 38. The transfer includes all houses, outbuildings, gardens, ponds, streams etc., on the property and on consideration of the payment of 70 pounds, Island money, by the said Lawrence C. Worthy. It is signed by Henry Bre-

haut and Elizabeth Brehaut and registered on the oath of Joseph Ball, witness. It was signed in the presence of Benjamin Clow, J. P. Henry Brehaut's address is given as Murray Harbor and his occupation farmer.

The party of Guernseymen who were temporarily located in Mr. Cambridge's store building on Beach Point, after looking the place over, decided to locate permanently. It is said this decision was influenced in no small degree by the heavy growth of trees, the land being covered by them to the water's edge. This was for two reasons - being coopers, they needed the wood in business, and they also thought that land that would grow such immense trees would when cleared give equally bountiful crops.

Daniel Machon - whose wife was a sister of Mrs. Brehaut, another sister being Mrs. Sullivan, whose first husband was named Nicoll, from whom the White Sand family of that name is descended, and who came out at a later date with her second husband, - settled on 100 acres on the extreme end of the point which bears his name; Henry Brehaut took the next 100 acres; William Sencabaugh, the Loyalist, the next 100 acres; Mr. DeJersey in turn settled on the next farm, afterward owned by Thomas Machon and now occupied by his son Henry; the Taudvins located across the river where John Hyde now lives; the LeLacheurs went further away and settled at Guernsey Cove; the Roberts went further down the South River and took up land still owned by their descendants, and the Marquands settled on the farm next east. Henry Brehaut must originally have intended to take 200 acres, for Uncle Jimmy Sencabaugh in 1897 told the writer that his father gave Henry a yoke of oxen to renounce whatever claim he may have had on the hundred acres that Sencabaugh afterwards bought, although the latter received his deed first.

Here the hardy immigrants at once began to erect their log houses and clear enough of the primeval forest to grow sufficient crops to furnish them with food with what the sea yielded. In the winter they would make up a quantity of barrels, kegs, household utensils etc., and in the spring would join together and send the products of their labor by water to Charlottetown, where they found a ready market. Many household articles now made of tin were then made of wood. On one of these trips to Charlottetown, Mrs. Sullivan was drowned.

The story of the community for the next few years is only a repetition of all such beginnings - scanty food and hard work and plenty of it.

After living on this place for three years Henry Brehaut purchased it outright. For the consideration of "seventy-two pounds of lawful sterling money of Great Britain" John Cambridge, merchant, and Mary, his wife, of Charlottetown, deeded to Henry Brehaut, farmer of Murray Harbor, parish of St. Andrew, Kings County, 100 acres of land, bounded east by Daniel Machon's farm, west by William Sencabaugh, south by South River and north by Fox River, also a piece of marsh land situated between William Sencabaugh's farm and Fox River. The deed is dated the 30th day of August "in the forty-ninth year of the reign of our sovereign lord George the Third, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine." A receipt on the back for 72 pounds, signed by John Cambridge, was witnessed by Peter McGowan and George Wright. Peter

McGowan, Justice of the Peace, took the acknowledgments of John Cambridge and Mary, his wife. The deed was signed and sealed in the presence of Peter McGowan and George Wright. An endorsement signed by Thomas Desbrisay states the within conveyance was duly registered in the Registrar's office at Charlottetown on the 21st day of September 1809 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Book 17, Page 288. The deed is in an excellent state of preservation and is in possession of David Brehaut, who owns part of the homestead.

Henry Brehaut knew nothing about farming and seemingly did not care to learn. The clearing of the land and subsequent farming devolved on his sons, and he spent his time chiefly in the cooper shop, which was soon built.

The house now on the farm is the fifth. The first house was built of round logs and contained two rooms downstairs and a loft partitioned off. It was situated to the west of the hollow that fronts on the South River and was occupied for a few years only, later being lived in by Thomas Bell, who came out from Scotland with his brother and their families, while they were clearing a place on the land they purchased at White Sands.

The next house was a more pretentious one of hewn or square logs and contained more of the comforts of life than did its predecessor. It was on the east side of the hollow, and on being vacated by the family was occupied by an Englishman named Ellis, who did some shipbuilding at Murray Harbor, and who afterwards moved to Summerside, where his descendants still live. The third house was built on the hill behind the site of the other two, and was considered very comfortable and roomy, probably not being surpassed in either respect by any house for miles around. It originally contained four rooms downstairs, kitchen, parlor and two bedrooms, with four sleeping rooms upstairs, and two additions were later built to it. Compared with other houses in the vicinity it seemed very high, explained in part by its slightly elevation and two dormer windows in its front. The cellar of the house was still visible in 1898, as well as that of the next house, into which the family moved in 1861.

Henry Brehaut was of medium height, thin and with quick, nervous movements, but of a jovial and happy disposition. His wife was small of stature, very energetic and a good manager. Family prayers night and morning and grace before and after meals were always observed. At meal time two tables were set out, a large square one at which the different members of the family took their places, and a small round, mahogany table nearer the fire which was reserved for the old gentleman and his wife. When the meal was finished he would take from his pocket a tin box containing tobacco cut in convenient sizes, and help himself to a piece. It is said that except when sleeping and eating, he was seldom without the weed, which may explain in some part the great partiality shown for it by some of his descendants.

As time went on they increased in property and for many years their home was the stopping place for the Cambridges and other principal visitors to the district. Mrs. Brehaut was a graceful hostess and took pleasure in entertaining those who came to her home. She and her daughters were renowned as cooks and bakers. French was the language used in the family, but as the children grew up and took to themselves partners who could not talk French, its use was gradually discontinued. The family Bible was in French.

In Guernsey Henry Brehaut and his wife were originally members and communicants of the Episcopal Church. She was converted to Methodism by Wesleyan preachers and was strong in that faith. She had heard Wesley on the occasion of his first visit to Guernsey. It is said that Wesley called on the Church of England clergyman, who asked him what he came to do. "To save souls," said Wesley. The clergyman told him he was not liable to have much success in that line, as he had been there a long time and the harvest of souls had been very lean. However, a great revival was the result of Wesley's visit. Henry liked the preaching of a sect called the Independents, in Guernsey, but on coming to the Island allied himself to the Presbyterians.

For some 25 years the Presbyterian Church was on his farm. In the early days of the 19th century the Presbyterian denomination was split up, there being those who adhered to the Established Church of Scotland, and others who branched off from the parent stem and were known as "Seceders," being very strong in Nova Scotia. The church in Murray Harbor South had been built on the farm of Donald McKay, on the south bank of the South River, and the pulpit was filled occasionally by Established Church ministers. As time went on, however, the pulpit became vacant, and no ministers were sent to supply the spiritual needs of the congregation. The "Seceders" began to send missionaries to Murray Harbor from Nova Scotia, and it was decided by the congregation to fill the pulpit with a minister of that branch of the faith, which was done. This action displeased Donald McKay, who never afterwards attended the services, but he allowed the church to be taken from his farm to wherever the majority willed it. So one winter's day the members assembled from far and near with their horses and hauled the building across the river to Henry Brehaut's farm, where it remained until about 1860, when the building which has just given way to the handsome new church edifice was occupied. The old building was bought by Henry M. Brehaut, the father of the writer, and its materials used in the construction of the buildings on the farm now owned by Daniel Brehaut at the White Sands.

Henry Brehaut died on April 3d, 1848, aged 81. His funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Calloway, a Bible Christian minister, there being no Presbyterian minister at Murray Harbor at the time.

His wife died on May 12th, 1864, having reached the ripe old age of 96. Services for the family were held at the house and were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Bigney, the Methodist minister. Then the body was taken to the Presbyterian Church, where a sermon was preached from the text "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" by the Rev. Mr. Ashley, the Bible Christian minister, and she was laid to rest beside her husband in the old English Church burying ground. During the last years of her life she lived over again in speech and memory the scenes and incidents that made up her life in her old home across the Atlantic. No picture remains of her husband, but one of her taken at the age of 93 has had a number of copies made from it.

Henry Brehaut's will is dated Feb. 27, 1848, and gives and bequeaths to his sons, James and Joseph, his farm of one hundred acres more or less upon condition that they should maintain and support their mother in a decent and comfortable manner during her natural life. If they should refuse to maintain her, she should have the land, but if they should fulfill

this condition it was to be divided equally between them, James to have the eastern and Joseph the western half. The marsh in Fox River was to be divided equally between them, but the island situated in that river was to belong to Joseph. The will goes on to say: "And as I have a sum of money loaned out upon interest, it is my will that my wife receive all interest due thereon, for her sole use, during the time for which such loan was made; then it is my will and desire that the said sum of money with all other monies due me, be equally divided between all my children." Joseph and his mother are named as executors. Signed in the presence of Benjamin Sencabaugh, James Sencabaugh and Daniel Crichton, witnesses. Proved on the 19th day of April, 1848, on the oath of Benjamin Sencabaugh, witness.

Our ancestor, like most of the able-bodied men of Guernsey, was a member of the militia and was so proficient in the manual of arms that he was excused from attending the drill. He was a great admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte, who in the early days of the last century was in the zenith of his power. England feared an invasion by France, and the shores of Guernsey were girdled with sentries within speaking distance of each other, who at intervals during the night passed the word "all's well." During the stirring years of the French Revolution a nobleman of that country escaped to Guernsey and made his home for some time with the Brehauts. Word came that his family had been mercilessly slaughtered and Mrs. Brehaut made him some mourning emblems to wear.

Henry Brehaut was also a Royal Arch Mason. The writer has in his possession his Blue Lodge diploma which shows that he was registered as a Master Mason in the Grand Lodge at London, March 6th, 1803, a member of Lodge No. 222. His signature is on the margin. Also his Royal Arch diploma, dated London, March 5th, 1805, but without his signature. They were given to Thomas Brehaut (son of James) who at his death was junior grand warden of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, by Henry's son Joseph about 1864, and given by Thomas' widow, Mrs. Margaret Brehaut, to the writer. They are some of the Oldest diplomas in existence of interest to Prince Edward Islanders, and it is needless to say that in order to get them away from the present owner, a man would have to have a dark lantern, a jimmy, a blackjack and two revolvers. The writer corresponded with Worshipful Brother Quick, Secretary of Mariners' Lodge of Guernsey, who looked up the records and found the following under date of Feb. 9, 1803:

"A motion was made by Brother Morant for Henry Brehaut to become a member of this lodge, which met the approbation of the body present and was entered accordingly. At the same time he paid his fees, 3 pounds 14 shillings."

Mrs. Glover of Providence, R. I., has silverware brought out by the family, and Benjamin Sencabaugh has a small anvil that formerly did duty in the old cooper shop.

And now a brief word about the collateral branch of the family on Prince Edward Island. The writer in the fall of 1897, on the steamer Halifax, between Boston and Charlottetown, met an old gentleman upwards of 80 years, named James Burhoe, a grandson of John Burhoe, the ancestor of the Lot 49 family. He said his grandfather told him that he and Henry Brehaut were first cousins; that the Murray Harbor way of spelling the name was correct; that people had corrupted the spelling of his name to something

like its sound to their ears and he never took the trouble to correct it. He also told his grandson that he was one of the first visitors to go over the side of the Guernsey ship on the day of her arrival. Henry was surprised and pleased to see him, for just before he left Guernsey, John's sister had called on him and asked him to look up her brother in the New World.

In the first census of the Island taken in 1798, John Burhoe is given as a resident of Lot 49. His family contained: Males under 16, 3; between 16 and 60, 3; females under 16, 3; between 16 and 60, 2 - a total of 11, quite a snug family, and eight years before our ancestors left Guernsey, too! I might add that we have not copyrighted the good old Norman name and that we would welcome the return to the right spelling by our kinsmen, even after a lapse of 108 years.

From Mr. Mellish's History of Methodism is taken this list of the Methodist class in Murray Harbor for the year 1820; French - Catherine DeJersey, leader, Thomas DeJersey, Hilary Roberts, Hilary Roberts, jr., Susannah Roberts, Daniel Machon, Francis Machon, Elizabeth Brehaut, Fanny Marquand, Elizabeth Marquand, Susannah Marquand, John Taudvin, Elizabeth Taudvin. English - John Sullivan, Margaret Sullivan, Ruhamey Sencabaugh, James Richards, John LeLacheur, John LeLacheur, jr., William Bishop, Marcis Bishop, Henry Brehaut, Francis Brehaut, Matthew Brehaut, Elizabeth Sencabaugh.

In closing I wish to say that much of the tradition set down here was related to me by Uncle Jimmy Sencabaugh and the late Thomas Brehaut of White Sands. I am also indebted to Miss Mary P. Brehaut for considerable information. If errors or omissions are noted, I will be pleased to receive corrections.

I regret very much my inability to be with you, and you have my heartfelt wishes for a successful meeting.

(The above is the conclusion of the paper written by James H. Brehaut, 28 Codman Park, Roxbury, Mass., and read at the recent celebration at Murray Harbor of the Centenary anniversary of the coming of the Brehauts. (Hedley)

Written in 1906.