

## **THE FIVE PIPPY/PIPEY BROTHERS**

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*On this page are listed the five brothers who are the earliest 'known' and recorded members of the PIPPY/PIPEY family in North America. Early records are somewhat sketchy on details, but it must be remembered that in the early time-period covered, record-keeping was not the urgent matter it has become in later years, especially so since the advent of the computer age.*

**William Pippy/Piphey - 663**

Born: Abt 1750, possibly in Newfoundland.

Died:

Buried:

**Joseph H. Pippy/Piphey - 383**

Born: 1754 @ Blackhead, Newfoundland.

Died: 20 April 1827, Charlottetown, PEI.

Buried: Church of England Cemetery, Charlottetown.

**Charles Pippy/Piphey - 243**

Born: 1765, possibly in Newfoundland.

Died: 19 May 1849, probably in Newfoundland.

Buried: Probably in Newfoundland.

**Peter Pippy/Piphey - 581**

Born: Abt 1768, probably in Newfoundland.

Died: 1832, probably in Newfoundland

Buried: Probably in Newfoundland.

**George Pippy/Piphey - 508**

Born: 1769, probably in Newfoundland.

Died: 1846, probably in Newfoundland.

Buried: Probably in Newfoundland.

## NOTES

1. According to our information, William 'went back' to Liverpool, England, and is not further traced at this time. Note the use of the word 'back', which to me indicates that he, or someone within living memory came from Liverpool. We have been told that quite a few Pippys lived in the Birkenhead area, near Liverpool. That report came during WWI. So far, 1996, we have not uncovered any. He is thought to be the ancestor of the person who went to Australia, founding the clan there.

He married Jane Herald, 28 May 1811, at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.

2. Joseph H. came to Charlottetown, PEI, by way of Harbour Grace and St. John's, Newfoundland. He was a shipwright, and owned considerable property in Charlottetown. His wife, Mary Normore, was born 1760 and died 07 March 1830. His will left everything to his wife, and after her death, to son Joseph and daughter Catherine, with a Fishing Room in Blackhead, NF, for son Gregory. No mention of Mary or John.

3. George went to Harbour Grace, NF. George Baxter Pippy of Truro and Sydney was a descendant. A land grant registered in the name of a George Pippy, at Harbour Grace, dated 1790, was probably the same person. Among other businesses, George Baxter started a Milk, Butter, and Ice Cream business in Truro, NS, later bought by Brookfield. He then started Eastern Creameries in Sydney, NS.

4. Charles settled in Broadcove, NF. This is my 'Pippy' ancestor (James Edwin Roberts).

5. Peter lived and died in Blackhead, NF. One report indicates that a son John (born 1822) went to Australia or New Zealand. Another set of information seems to indicate that it was a grandson, and the dates appear to bear this out. Also, that it was a son named Peter who had the 6 daughters.

No record has been found in Australia or New Zealand of the John mentioned above.

# STATEMENT of GEORGE BAXTER PIPPY

taken in Sydney, NS in the 1930's

As I remember the family history, as my father told it to me, there was an admiral of the French Navy who was a Huguenot and who left France at the time of the Oppression of the Huguenots and who went to New York, U.S.A.. There the Admiral and his wife met their son and from there they went to Newfoundland. The son was the founder of the Pippy Family in this country, (i.e. North America).

Father also told me that the Admiral convoyed the Acadians from Annapolis Royal. Be that as it may, I have seen evidence of one of our ancestors being an officer of the Navy, in the shape of a sword and sheath which I have seen and handled myself when I was a small boy.

I have been told by father that I was the sixth George in succession. The following are records taken from the books of the Church of England at Harbour Grace, starting with my father:-

George Augustus Pippy, son of George and Amelia, born August 1, 1832.

George A. Pippy, son of George and Mary, born May 21, 1807.

George who married Mary and was the father of the above George, born about 1782 -?

The Church records did not go back farther than 1795 when the Church was organized. This leaves two more Georges to account for. Allowing 25 more years between father and son would put the fifth George born about 1757, and the sixth born about 1732. The latter would be one of the four brothers, George, Charles, William, and Joseph, which leaves quite a gap to be filled in by the father of the four between 1732 back to 1685. the time of the slaughter of the Huguenots (about 47 years), and would have to go back farther than that, as tradition has it that the Admiral's son was born in France, unless we can step the four brothers back one more generation, which would make the dates fit almost perfectly with Tradition and Historical events.

However, I believe that the Admiral would be at Newfoundland in an Official capacity, most any time between 1661 and 1762, as the French owned the coast for about 100 years between these dates. It is also said that the Pippys had an Admiralty Grant of Land at Harbour Grace which is partly covered by the upper half of that town, in about the centre of which is a place called Pippy's Lane (of historical note), and in which place there were quite a number of Pippys about 60 years ago. All of which makes me think the original starting point of the Pippys on this continent was Harbour Grace.

Some think that the first Pippys came from the Channel Islands, but have no evidence to indicate such, while we had evidence that the oldest was a French Naval Officer. I have seen and handled his sword and sheath at our home in Harbour Grace, and my father told me he had seen the "cocked hat" and "uniform coat" that was held by some members of the family, possibly parts of the uniform held by the three living of the four brothers and passed along to their descendants. Then they say, "How do you account for the Pippys" in the Channel Islands and England?" I would say that they were most likely refugees from France settling there about 1685, just as our ancestors were refugees settling in Newfoundland about the same time.

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N.B.- Ted Pippy of Moncton once said he saw the sword and sheath hanging in Baxter's office in Sydney. Baxter's grand-daughter (George T's. daughter) in London, ON, says she has never heard of it. Georgia Day says she heard that it was ground down many years ago to make a knife for cleaning and filleting fish. Baxter has an elderly daughter and a grandson living in Sydney. So far I have been unable to talk with them, but I assume Georgia has in the past.

J.E.R.

## THE "PIPPY" FAMILY TREE

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The information about the PIPPY family-tree contained in this document has been painstakingly gathered over many years by several persons. These include the late George Edwin Pippy of Glace Bay, N.S., his daughter Georgia (Mrs. Donald Day) of Lake Annis, Yarmouth County, N.S., June (Pippy) Middleton of Hazel Brook, Prince Edward Island, and the late Paul Easterbrook of Fresno, California. June has compiled much of Paul Easterbrook's research. She has also done extensive research into the line of 'Joseph', founder of the 'Prince Edward Island' branch, and continues to update it. Much research into the line of 'Charles' was done by George Edwin and Georgia Pippy (Day). The lines of George and Peter are less well documented at this time. Documents making a positive link to William have yet to be found, but the link is fairly certain. William is thought to be the father of the founder of the Australian branch.

The bulk of the information I was given was reasonably well detailed up to about the 1930's and 1940's. Some of this latter information contained minor inaccuracies. My major task has been to update this material as accurately as possible up to the present, and to 'computerize' it for permanency and ease of retrieval and duplication.

It is the sincere hope of my wife and I that others will continue the work, if not as a total package, then at least for their own branch of the TREE.

## HISTORY OF THE "PIPPY" FAMILY

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Family history is always difficult to rebuild from cold statistics. So far, the exact circumstances to account for the presence of the Pippys in Newfoundland are shrouded in the mists of time. No doubt, given time and money, more secrets will be revealed of the period before 1750.

How much of the family *legend* is based in fact is difficult to say. More and more we are discovering that so-called 'legends' are in fact a true picture, though perhaps embellished. It is not now known which of the two common legends may be the fact, or they may very well both be true, different family members having different memories.

One story says that the five brothers are descendants of a French Naval Officer, apparently named George, who was a Huguenot, possibly their grandfather. There appears to be some grounds for this notion, as can be seen in the letter from the French Naval Archives in answer to Paul Easterbrook's request for information. No positive connection has been made to the person mentioned in this document. Further research is needed in France as to whether the Naval Officer was married, had children, etc.. June Middleton has copies of all research done by Paul Easterbrook, who discovered his Pippy connection while researching his Easterbrook roots in Newfoundland.

Another story has the Pippys migrating to Newfoundland from the Channel Islands. Because there is reason to believe that the Pippys go back *at least* two generations further in Newfoundland than was previously known, there may have been two migration sources, and they may have been related. This idea would satisfy both legends. June Middleton has a list of dozens of Pippys which she has so far been unable to fit into the puzzle, some older than the five brothers.

Here is how one story goes - "During the period of the slaughter of the HUGUENOTS, they left France and settled in the Channel Islands (Isle of Guernsey), and from there, apparently in the early 1700's, the Naval Officer met his son George (?) in New York (?) and proceeded to Blackhead, Newfoundland, where they settled".

The one thread going through both stories is the Huguenot theory, which is entirely plausible. The reader should familiarize himself with the 'Huguenot' period of France's history. The book "The Days of the Upright" by O.I.A. Roche is excellent. There are others. It is documented fact that many Huguenots fled persecution by going to Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Germany, the Channel Islands, and to England, either directly or via some of the other countries mentioned. Many also went to the United States via various routes, and in the very beginning a few even came to New France, but the King of France, under pressure from the Roman Catholic Church and the Jesuits

of the Spanish Inquisition, soon forbid it.

The statement by George Baxter Pippy of Sydney is interesting. He mentions having seen and handled some accoutrements attributed to the Naval Officer. In a 1966 letter from William (Bill) Pippey (of Moncton) to Paul Easterbrook, Bill mentions that his brother Ted (of Moncton) had seen the sword and scabbard hanging in his (Baxter's) office in Sydney. There is some doubt about that statement, as Georgia Day has information that at some point in time, the person possessing the sword had cut it down to make a knife for cleaning or splitting fish, or some such task. Of course, such a story could have been designed to deter memorabilia hunters, but no trace of the sword and scabbard can be found. George Baxter's grand-daughter of London, ON, says she had never heard of it. George Baxter also mentions four brothers, not five. It is my opinion that the existence of the 5th brother was determined sometime after the deposition of George Baxter in the 1930's.

Whatever the facts of the Pippy family history prior to 1750, it is known that there were Pippys (Pippeys) in and around the Liverpool, England (Birkenhead) area (during WW II), and that there was a ladies wear store in Sheffield, England bearing the Pippy name. Pippy's Boutique is still in business (October 1996). It is not known if they are descended from brother William or not, but the story says that William *went back* to Liverpool, which would indicate that some part of the family, within memory at the time, had come *from* Liverpool or some other part of England. Liverpool, in this context, could mean the 'point of embarkation / entry', and not necessarily the destination in England.

There are Pippy descendants in Australia, and they descend from a Philip Henry Pippy who went to Australia from England, whose father was a William Pippy. This William married Jane Herald in Newfoundland and went back to Liverpool. What has not been established beyond a shadow of a doubt is whether this William is the fifth brother, or a son or grandson of that brother.

In comparing photographs of older living folks in Australia, there are startling resemblances to some of the Pippys of the Charles descendants of the Glace Bay area. This branch is being further researched by the Australian group. Philip Henry was a seaman, and on a trip to Australia, the ship stopped at Cork, Ireland for passengers. Among them was a red-headed Irish girl, and they fell in love. They got off the ship in Australia, and the rest is history. Marrying the Irish girl accounts for the fact that the Australian Pippy clan are all of the Roman Catholic Faith.

Another ironic piece of information came to my attention in late July 1994. It has been known for decades that a George Pippy, born Newfoundland, came to Baddeck, NS, probably sometime about the early 1860's. He and his wife, along with the three youngest children are listed on the 1871 Census for Baddeck. What is ironic is that he gave his 'origins' as **Scotch**. Unfortunately, not all Census information is accurate, but this does put a new twist on some of this research. Perhaps he thought it wise because he was surrounded by Scotsmen.

Two of this George's daughters married in Newfoundland, and one of them may also have gone to England, as her husband (John Congdon) came from Fowey, Cornwall. This information was confirmed from research Lois and I did at the Beaton Institute (Sydney) in 1993, where we researched a compilation of events from early Newfoundland newspapers, and from British Maritime Records.

As the story goes, George's wife just had to get away to someplace peaceful after the drowning deaths of two of their sons in a fishing accident, and they migrated to Baddeck. An as yet unproven story is that George worked for or was part owner of a newspaper there.

I was recently in contact with a lifelong genealogist in Nova Scotia, and he claims that the name PIPPY is a contraction of the French 'Petit Philippe' (little Philippe), and that the name is traced through Guernsey and Devonshire. Known modern day variants are Pippy, Pippey, Peppy, Peppey. This genealogist also suggests Pepis, Pepit, Pippen and Peppin. Pipper and Pippet are possible, as is Pipon, which was known in the Channel Islands. The possibilities which could have evolved over centuries are endless.