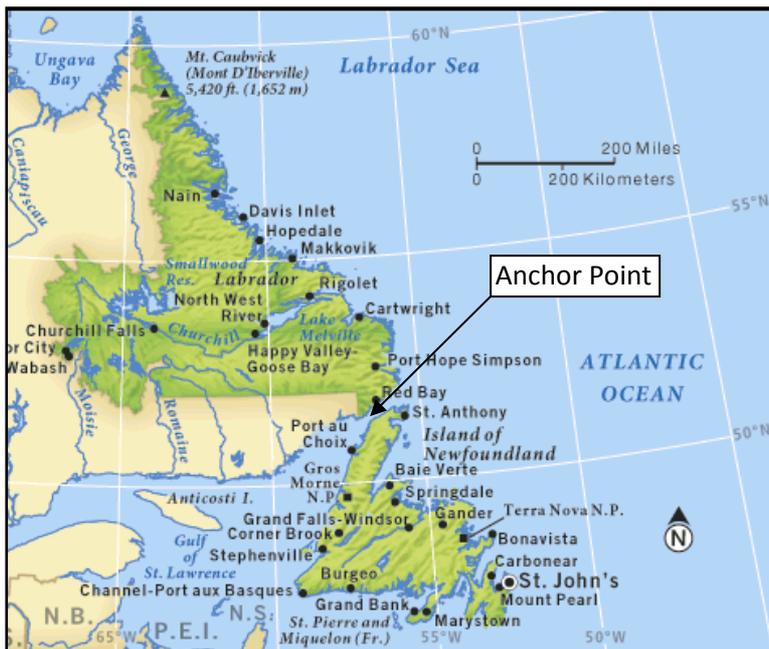


THE NEWFOUNDLAND LINK

The first settlers of Anchor Point on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland Island were **ROBERT BARTLETT** and his nephew **ROBERT GENGE** of Pendomer. They arrived on the remote rocky coastline circa 1740 principally to fish. This was the first English settlement in the territory held by the French known as the French Shore in the Strait of Belle Isle. The French fishermen were not allowed to make a permanent settlement along that coast.



After many adventures, Bartlett returned to England but Robert Genge remained and was joined by his brother Abraham and nephew William Genge. William married Margaret, daughter of a William Buckle who worked for his uncle Abraham in his successful fishing and fur trapping business and became the ancestor of a great number

of Genges on that part of the coastline today. He took over the running of his uncle's business which was exporting sealskins at a good price to America via the American vessels that came into the harbour.

A French diplomat was sent to William's house to state that it was illegally built on French territory and this is his description of what he found:

“His estate is not beautiful because the country does not allow it. It is a level expanse of rocks where he has made a small garden which with great difficulty produces a few small cabbages and some rhubarb. But he finds this life splendid, because the nets where he takes his seals stretch out in front of his windows, and everything there belongs to him and comes from him.

.... Such a great and powerful person, a kind of patriarch of antiquity, could not show the humble and placid submission of an ordinary fisherman....”.

William stood his ground and remained there. More relatives from Pendomer and Hardington Mandeville sailed over for the fishing season over a number of years returning to their farms in Somerset when the season was over.

The Genge family invented a netted seal frame with which they used to trap the seals as they rounded Anchor Point in the springtime.

This family did indeed make their mark on the other side of the Atlantic as there are a number of places named after them such as Genge Cove, Genge Point and Gengeville in the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland.

And they are still there today, as this recent report shows:



*Crew members of the Deadman's Cove (a.k.a. Gengeville) dragger "Newfoundland Storm" pose with their strange catch, which they found in the gate of their trawl while shrimping off the Labrador coast. Pictured are: (l-r) **Greg Genge**, **Dan Genge**, Hank Poole and **Kevin Genge**.*

Genges and Bartletts remained in and around Pendomer for many more years. Robert's (probable) brother John married Joan Bartlett in 1751 and their son Edward, born in the same year, became the Parish Clerk, living at what is now Rose Cottage.