

Thos. Pike who died about 1848 at the great age of 103 was a remarkable man, had a massive head like polished marble. He was a man of marked intelligence. He remembered being camped on Carbonear Island and helping to build a fort at a place called Moll Ashes Hole. When the French and Indians came to attack Carbonear. Thos. Pike and five men left the island and landed at Harbor Rock Hill to procure wood. The wood at that time grew down to the waters edge. A path was cut up to the North side of the hill by the inhabitants to facilitate wood cutting and through this wide path they were discovered by the French and Indians. They had to run for it and got on board their boat, <sup>and</sup> all but one man escaped, he was shot and killed.

To show what sort of a man this Thos. Pike was, upon one occasion he sailed his boat out to Carbonear Island when he was 76 years of age. The painter got loose and the boat drifted off a long way from the island before he discovered her. He took off his clothes and swam after the boat, boarded her and beat back to the island for his clothes and came home nothing the worse for his adventure. Another instance of this hardy old fellow was in 1837 when one Joshua Green was sent out of this country to sell the Beaches. People used to be squabbling about them. The beaches that were not held for sixty years in possession were sold by this man Green. The Pikes of Carbonear held the beach of that place and their claim was adjudicated upon by the Surrogate Court at Harbor Grace. Old man Pike then in his 97th. year and having been bed ridden for several years previous, got up dressed himself, and was carried in a sedan chair over the hills to Harbor Grace. He swore he was born upon the said beach, which set at naught the Crowns claim to his property.

Thos Pikes father came out from Dorset as a gentleman adventurer, his family being influential people and having faught in Englands wars both by land and sea. This old man used to say his fore-fathers though English, yet some time far back in the history of the family they came over from Ireland to England, and fought during the wars of the Roses and that some of them engaged in the wars of the Crusaders.

Mr. Watts i.e. Old Mr. Cladius Watts Harbor Grace father was a nephew of the



Kemps the great Pool House who at one time controlled one fourth of the Newfoundland trade. This Mr. Watts was Kemps agent for many years. On one occasion he sent a ship loaded with fish to St. John's, She was siezed upon by Hunter and Brooking for a debt owed them by her Captain one Clarke. At that time there was no registration in Newfoundland and the Captain was held to be the owner. Watts contested the case in St. John's before Judge Colclough and lost it. It cost him £300. He then appealed it to the Privy Council (it being the first case so appealed from this country). He employed a celebrated English lawyer, Sir Jos. Scarlet M. P. but again lost the case at a further cost of £500. On the strength of this case a bill was brought into the British parliament to better define the ownership and registration of vessels etc.

There was a celebrated character in Carbonear in these days. One John Sharpe a Scotchman who was high Constable. He was a poet of no mean order, but, all his poetry is forgotten.