

This compendium of records was created for Morgan Snook (a maternal ancestor of the author) as a set of references in November, 2017. By inference, this file will clearly contain duplicated records and poorly formatted data elements, ancient English language spellings and a number of erroneous references; please direct any comments to the author?

Thanks!
Regards, DJ Shave
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From ***Morgan Snook Jr 1735 1818.htm***

Morgan Snook, Jr. (1735 – 1818) was born in Dorset, England

He was a merchant and fisherman at the British outpost on the island of St. Peters (now St. Pierre) and later at Fortune Bay. He served as a ship's pilot for Captain James Cook during the 1765 survey of the south coast of Newfoundland

The Snook family emigrated from Dorset in the 1750s to the Fortune Bay area on the south coast of Newfoundland. They settled on St. Peters Island as merchants and fishermen, and here Morgan Snook, Jr. became magistrate and constable for the crown

When St. Pierre (with Miquelon) became a French territory with the Treaty of Paris in 1763, he was tied up and set adrift in a small open boat by the French authorities

Thomas Graves of the HMS Antelope (along with Captain Charles Douglas and James Cook), had just surveyed the property of all settlers on St. Pierre before it was turned over to the French. Graves' report to the Lords of Trade indicates the family owned the following property prior to 1763: Morgan Snook, Sr. - one dwelling house 36' by 16', another house 24' by 14', a third house 14' by 12', and a salt house; the total value was 78 pounds. Morgan Snook, Jr. owned a fish stage, a house, a fisherman's house, a lumber house, another dwelling house and a picketed garden for a total value of 241 pounds

Snook came ashore in Grand Bank and established a family

In 1765, he was a pilot aboard the HMS Grenville during the first command of Captain James Cook, a 1763-1767 nautical survey of Newfoundland following the Seven Years' War

Snook was paid four 4 shillings a day for his work

Morgan Snook was killed in a fist fight in 1818, and his wife Ann Woolridge Barnes died in the same year. Some of their children and descendants remained in Newfoundland while others left for Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

From *Transcript of Morgan Snook Jrs Will.htm*

Will of Morgan Snook, Planter of Fortune, Newfoundland
Fortune March 30, 1808

Mr. Jonathan Hickman, I leaves this upon my last will and testament for you to do your best indevouir (sic) for your mother- in-law and I charge you to mind the stacks for your mother after my decease and I leaves this upon my last will and testament for Ann Snook to pay Jonathan Hickman yearly pay 25 pounds to maintain her yearly this I charge you to do I do Morgan Snook as witness my hand. Wm Gallop. It is my will Mr. Hickman to R_____ all my debts, to pay all

Appeared personally George Read of Sturminster Newton Castle in the County of Dorset Gentleman and to make oath that he hath been for many years a clerk to Messrs. Bird and Son of Sturminster Newton Castle aforesaid merchants who were correspondents in the way of habit with Morgan Snook late of Fortune in Fortune Bay in the Island of Newfoundland Planter deceased and the deponent(?) thereby named to know and be acquainted with the said deceased and also with his manner and character of handwriting subscription and having very frequently seen letters on business received by the said Messrs. Bird and Son from the deceased and which the deponent verily _____ were written and subscribed to by the said deceased and the deponent having carefully viewed and inspected this paper writing _____ purporting to be the last will and testament of the said deceased the will beginning thus

Fortune March 1808 Mr. Jonathan Hickman I leaves this upon my last will and testament to owing thus to charge you to do and thus subscribed Morgan Snook having a _____ or addition written at the foot of this said will in the words following it is my will Mr. Hickman to R_____ all my debts and to pay all let this to deponent dothe say he verily and in his _____ the said name and subscription Morgan Snook so aforesaid _____ and _____ to the said will to be of the proper handwriting and subscription of him the said Morgan Snook deceased George Read

On the fourteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and twenty the said George Read was duly sworn to the truth of this affidavit by virtue of the Commissioner _____ sworn before me C Davis Commissioner

From [The Birth of Morgan Snook Jr in Poole in 1735.htm](#)

It is not surprising that Morgan Snook Jr. is recorded as being born in Poole, although his father was from elsewhere in Dorset. Poole was a centre of the Newfoundland Fishery Trade in the mid- eighteenth century, home to a fleet of ships supplying the Fishery with people and goods

From the book "So longe as there comes noe women". Origins of English Settlement in Newfoundland

W. Gordon Handcock writes:

"In prosperous and peaceful periods, men and boys voluntarily flocked into the port during winter and early spring to sign on as sailors, fishermen, or servants with one of the merchant ship owners. This practice became as much of an annual event in Poole as the yearly hiring of farm labourers was at local county fairs. Even as there developed in Poole a self-perpetuating community of mariners and fishermen who were preoccupied with the Newfoundland fishery, so also there were Newfoundland seafaring communities of varying size residing in most of the county towns and villages. These communities consisted of sea captains, seamen, boatmasters, fishermen, occasionally a shipowner or a merchant, even Newfoundland planters-groups of individuals who used the fishery as their main means of livelihood, but who maintained their domiciles and families outside Poole. They resided among, and were an integral part of, their respective local parishes and settlements."

"Many mariners employed by merchants and traders brought their wives and families into Poole and rented rooms. Others married local girls. Normally men employed on monthly wages made arrangements with merchants to allow regular payments to their families."

Morgan Snook Sr. was a Mariner and his wife Jane was probably living in Poole (as Hancock suggests) when their son was born. This son Morgan Jr. is listed as a Mariner in his father-in-law's will (Robert Woolridge d. 1774- see his Profile Gallery for a copy of the will) but later, established in Fortune Bay, stated in his own will that he was a Planter. In between both wills he most definitely maintained his family outside Poole in Okeford Fitzpaine. There are records in the parish registers there of his marriage to Ann Woolridge and the christening of his children up to 1767

Interestingly in Robert Woolridge's will he mentioned a loan he made to Ann Snook which was probably the capital needed for Snook Jr. to set up his holdings in St. Pierre and move from the occupation of Mariner to that of Planter. Robert Woolridge stated that he gave the money gladly and would do so again. He also stated that it be deducted from Ann's share of her inheritance in fairness to her siblings

From [***The Great Newfoundland Hurricane of 1775.htm***](#)

On September 9, 1775 a great storm struck eastern Newfoundland. The winds and a 20-30 feet storm surge caused massive destruction on a scale never seen in Newfoundland before or since. Over 4000 people were killed (mainly British and Irish sailors), and hundreds of ships were destroyed. The hurricane is Canada's deadliest natural disaster

Alan Ruffman writes in "The Multidisciplinary Rediscovery and Tracking of The Great Newfoundland and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon Hurricane of September 1775" (The Northern Mariner/Le Marin du nord, VI, No. 3 (July 1996), 11-23):

"...one week after the storm a Halifax newspaper did print an extract of a letter from St. John's that described a severe gale of wind in which some thousands of lives have been lost

A later report in a Pennsylvania paper gave even more details: A person lately from Halifax to Cape Cod, reports, that he saw at Halifax, a particular account of the loss of several harbours of Newfoundland, in a violent storm on the 9th of September, amounting in the whole to more than four thousand men

It was said at Halifax to be computed that the loss in ships, fish, oil, and merchandize of various kinds, amounted to 140,000 pounds sterling

An account received from Boston confirms the foregoing, and mentions, — That nearly all the shallops employed in that fishery, as well other vessels, were wholly lost; and those that rode out the gale, were chiefly dismasted, and otherwise much damaged, that many houses, &c. were blown down, and that it would take the chief part of the spring to repair the flakes, they having received almost incredible damage."

Official reports of damage came from Lamaline on the Burin peninsula, and nearby St. Pierre received proportionally more loss of life than any other area. Fortune and Grand Bank (only 6 km away from Fortune) would have also felt the force of the storm. The Snooks having been settled in their home for 12 years by 1775 would have had shallops, flakes, stages, etc. that may have been damaged in the fierce tempest

It was reported for a long period of time afterwards that so many had drowned, their bones were washed upon the shore even years later. Soon after the storm, fishermen often would find bodies of the victims amongst their catch. It must have been a dreadful reminder to the Snook's of just how deadly the sea and their livelihood could be

From *Pilot for Captain James Cook.htm*

Captain James Cook first gained a reputation as a superior mapmaker with a six year survey of Newfoundland waters that started in the summer of 1762. The nautical charts he produced during that time were unparalleled for detail and fisheries information. On the basis of that reputation he was later given the facilities to conduct the Pacific Ocean journeys for which he is famous

According to The Captain Cook Society website, William Whiteley's pamphlet about Cook's time in Newfoundland is a very valuable resource of what happened during that time. "James Cook in Newfoundland 1762 -1767," by William H. Whiteley

Newfoundland Historical Society, 1975 states:

"Cook was also in the habit of employing local pilots to point out the rocks and hidden dangers especially on the south and west coasts. In the 1765 season, for example, four pilots were engaged at 4 shillings a day each, John Beck for the coast west of Great St. Lawrence, Morgan Snook for Fortune Bay, John Dawson for Connaigre and Hermitage Bays, and John Peck for the Bay of Despair."

From ***St Pierre St Peters Island 1714 1763.htm***

According to W. Gordon Handcock in his book "So longe as there comes noe women."
Origins of English Settlement in Newfoundland:

In the summer of 1714, one year after the island of St. Pierre was handed over to the English as part of the Treaty of Utrecht, William Taverner undertook a survey to chart the south coast of Newfoundland to provide information on harbours, fishing grounds, and other resources found there. He claimed there was a lack of knowledge about the formerly French area that could deter the English from fishing there

He was surprised then to find several traders from Poole, Dorset already established in St. Pierre now called St. Peter's. Between 1713 and 1763, St. Pierre had an English Fishery and a small settlement. The average population of St. Pierre in the 1740's was about 44, rising to 102 in the 1750's. An average was used as the population fluctuated between the fishing season and the winter. Many people working in the Fishery would return to homes in southern England during the winter but a few would stay behind in St. Peter's to look after property, etc

The 1762 Newfoundland Governor's Return stated St. Peter's had a population of 320 persons including 12 mistresses (wives or widows), two women servants, and 40 children. Most of these moved to Fortune Bay in 1763 when the island was handed over to the French in the Treaty of Paris. Census figures from Fortune Bay the following winter support this movement