

BRULE

- Brule (Bruley, Brewley, Little Brule) is situated on Merahseen Island, directly across from Spencer's Cove.
- It was a fishing community until resettlement.
- The community is made up of three parts (Big Brule, Little Brule, and Crab's Hole).
- Crab's Hole at times in the census records appears as a separate community from Brule.
- One of the earlier descriptions of Brule was by Howley. "This is merely a corruption of the French Brule, burnt, and is named commonly applied by the French to burnt wood.
- At the present time there is no wood in the place, except a little brush wood.
- It is in fact one large meadow, and is the principal meadow of the people of the town. I understand however, that in tilling the large stumps, other evidence come to light which shows that it was once wooded, and covered with large forest trees. As far back however as 1693, it was a meadow land and was called by the French"
- In the 1845 census, Brule was listed as having a population of eleven.
- There was a planter living there and one house had been built.
- By 1857, the population had increased to 50 and that year 500 qtls of codfish were cured there.
- The population slowly increased to 66 in 1874 all being Roman Catholic and having been born in Newfoundland.
- In McAlpines Directory of 1893, people of the following surnames were living in Brule: Bennett, Bavis, Barry, Emberly, Grove, Kerrivan, Seward, and Traverse.
- In 1884, there was a Roman Catholic Church in the community and by 1911, a school was listed as well.
- In 1911 there were 19 houses inhabited in Brule.
- The census for that year gives us an indication of the produce of the land and the importance of subsistence farming.
- In 1910, twenty-three acres of land were under cultivation producing ten tones of hay, sixty-nine barrels of potatoes, fifteen barrels of turnips, and 8100 heads of cabbage.
- The 1921 census gives a detailed history of the fishing industry in 1920.
- There were twenty vessels of various tonnage involved in the inshore fishery.
- Soon after confederation the population of the community began to move to other locations in the bay.
- By the time of resettlement only a few families remained.
- They eventually moved to Southern Harbour and Arnold's Cove.

Hand Book Gazetteer and Almanac, Newfoundland 1940, Abandoned Communities of Placentia Bay (Oct. 2002), Arnold's Cove: A Community History (1997)