

# HAYSTACK

- Population in 1940: 115, Population 1966: 1)
- Fishing settlement on the eastern shore of Long Island, toward the head of Placentia Bay
- 52 Miles from Argentia
- Probably settled in the late 1830s
- A resettled fishing community, Haystack was located in a sheltered harbour formed by a wedge-shaped peninsula on the northeast coast of Long Island, Placentia Bay, north of Harbour Buffett
- Haystack, like other Long Island settlements, was dependent upon Harbour Buffett for supplies and the sale of their fish.
- The settlement was first reported in the census of 1857 with five families composed of thirty-seven people of whom six were born in England.
- The 1845 census shows Haystack as having population of eleven; all of whom were Protestant.
- There were two families who between them had 24 goats, thirteen sheep, and four cattle.
- They produced 46 barrels of potatoes with three acres of land under cultivation.
- By 1857, the population had grown to 37; 6 of whom were born in England.
- Twenty-five people were Church of England, and 12 were Methodist.
- It now had five families who were using three fishing rooms.
- By 1884, the population was seventy-four, and there were 13 families.
- Of the total population, seventy were Church of England, and four were Roman Catholic.
- Although fishing was the main industry, the people of Haystack remained self sufficient.
- Agriculture was still very important with twenty-two acres of land cultivated producing nineteen tons of hay, 151 barrels of potatoes and ten barrels of turnips.
- There were now 31cattle, one horse, 73 sheep and 14 swine.
- In 1911, there were two businesses operating in Haystack and eighteen fishing rooms in actual use.
- Family names of Haystack included Allen, Bendle, Best, Bugden, Burt, Coffin, Drake, Gilbert, Gregory, Halfyard, Jarvis, King, March, Paul, Peach, Peddle, Pike, Quinton, Reid, Wakley, and Wareham.
- In 1950s the population began to resettle and by 1961 only two remained.
- Frank Drake remained and fished at Haystack for many years.
- It is likely that the first settlers of Haystack, like those of Harbour Buffett, were English fishing servants from the West Country of England who were brought to Placentia Bay by the large merchant concerns of Placentia and Little Placentia (Argentia).
- Grants for land at Haystack were recorded as early as 1847, when Robert Coffin, Thomas Rendell, and Thomas Bugden obtained land (JHA: 1848-1849), App. P. 246).
- By 1869 the population of Haystack had grown to forty-nine people and a Church of England church and school were operating in the settlement, which depended wholly on the small boat, inshore fishery.
- Lovell's Newfoundland Directory (1871) described Haystack as a "small fishing settlement".

- The inhabitants were listed as Robert Coffin, planter, and James Allen, Thomas Drake, Samuel and Thomas Gilbert, Edward Hanna, John King, Joseph Upshall and Issac Wakley as fishermen of the settlement.
- The population of Haystack reached seventy-four in 1874 and seventy-nine in 1891.
- The population never exceeded 100, and by 1956, the population had dropped to 16 from 78 recorded in 1951.
- By 1961, only two residents remained in Haystack and by 1966 one solitary inhabitant remained.
- Government assistance was received in the resettlement of most of the population of Haystack from 1956 to 1961.
- The resettlement of the community of Harbour Buffett which began in 1961 was a major factor in the decision by Haystack residents to resettle.

Census (1857-1966), Lovell's Newfoundland Directory (1871), Sailing Directions Newfoundland (1980), Hand Book Gazetteer and Almanac, Newfoundland 1940, Arnold's Cove: A Community History (1997)