

SPENCER'S COVE

- Population 1940: 119, Population 1961; 163
- Fishing (inland and Bank) and herring-packing settlement in Placentia Bay West, between Kingwell and Haystack
- 61 miles from Argentia
- A resettled community on the north end of Long Island, Placentia Bay, Spencer's Cove was apparently named in honor of Bishop A.G. Spencer, the first Church of England bishop of Newfoundland.
- Originally called Paddy Poors' Cove
- It was originally listed with Haystack in the 1836 census
- In 1845, there were six houses in the cove, contained 48 inhabitants
- In 1858, Rev. Meek, the Anglican Minister for the Mission reported a chapel school-room under construction;
- Construction of the first Anglican Church in Spencer's Cove began in 1901.
- By 1914 a new Blymmer bell had been bought and a new organ ordered
- This was quite a feat considering in a ten-year period a new Church was built, fitted and paid for outright by a congregation of only 10 families.
- In 1884, there were eleven Methodist living in Spencer's Cove.
- This number had increased by 1945 to 45. The first Methodist families to live in the community were Holletts who came there from Sound Island.
- It is not known when the first school was built but one was listed together with an Anglican Church in 1911.
- The Methodist Church was part of the Sound Island Parish
- Evidence of the presence of small sites of the Dorset Paleo-Eskimo Tradition indicate probable use of the area as a seasonal hunting camp.
- The Spencer's Cove site is one of the southern most Dorset sites to have been identified.
- Permanent European settlement probably began in mid -1800s, and early inhabitant being John Rodway.
- By the time Spencer's Cove was first listed in the census, in 1857, there were 87 residents – all members of the Church of England.
- Sheltered from westerly winds by the northern tip of Merasheen Island and from other winds by a broad, natural harbour, Spencer's Cove was well situated to become a trading center for inner Placentia Bay.'
- Samuel Coffin appears to have been the first merchant in Spencer's Cove, from about 1869.
- Other residents at that time included families of Browne's, Butchers, Peaches, Rodways, Slades, and Warehams.
- By the late 1800s the lobster fishery of the inner Placentia Bay was booming, and there were 11 factories in 1901.
- The trade in lobsters formed a large part of the business established at Spencer's Cove by Alberto Wareham in the early 1900s, and by the 1930s Wareham was shipping live lobsters to markets in New England.

- In the early 1960s Wareham's premises were destroyed in a fire and the business was moved to Arnold's Cove by Freeman Wareham.
- By 1966, Spencer's Cove was deserted, except for use as a summer fishing station (largely by former inhabitants who had moved to Arnolds Cove).

Brown and Hollett (1992), Urve Linnamae (1971), Lovell's Newfoundland Directory (1871), Census (1857-1961), Hand Book Gazetteer and Almanac, Newfoundland 1940, Arnold's Cove-A Community History (1997)