

Tack's Beach

- Population in 1966, 140
- A resettled fishing community, Tack's beach was located on Kings Island, the largest of the Ragged Islands in western Placentia Bay.
- The community (which is usually considered to have included Baker's Cove, Best's Harbour, Broad Cove, Cooper's Cove, and Yawl's Cove) was centred on a narrow beach which separated two coves. It was the most densely populated area of the ragged islands.
- The ragged islands were probably first settled by fishermen from elsewhere in Placentia Bay, encouraged by the establishment of Spurrier and Co. premises at Isle Valen and Barren Island (Bar Haven) in the early 1800's.
- By about 1834, William Bolt and his family were living at Tack's Beach.
- According to family tradition the Bolts of Tack's Beach were descended from a man who changed his name after "bolting" from the royal navy.
- The census in 1845 recorded two Church of England families at Tack's Beach. By 1857 the population had reached 42.
- George Best is said to have settled Best's Harbour in 1867, while Henry Haines was an early settler at Cooper's Cove. Baker's Cove first appears in the census in 1874 with a population of 11.
- William Brown started a small business c.1860, with premises at Broad cove, and Tack's Beach soon became a minor mercantile centre for the people of nearby islands.
- The business was expanded by his son as H.C Brown and Co., and became an important local firm.
- Other planters of Tack's Beach in 1871 were Benjamin Barrett and Samuel and Thomas Bolt.
- By 1891 three lobster factories had opened on the Ragged Islands and John Warren had established a business on Galton's Island. When lobster became less abundant, a schooner and western boat fishery were developed to exploit grounds around Cape St Mary's and Cape Race. By 1921 "greater" Tack's Beach had a population of 252.
- In the 1920's and 1930's the population of the Ragged Islands began to concentrate at Tack's Beach. The Green, Dowden, Warren, Trowbridge and Lockyer families were among those who moved to Broad and Baker's Cove.
- Herring factories at Broad, Best's Harbour and Copper's Cove attracted some of these new settlers, as did seasonal employment in a whaling factory at Rosiru, on Merasheen Island.
- Yawl's Cove was settled in the 1940's by George and Stella Brown.

- The 1950's were marked by a decline in the bank and herring fisheries and some men from Tack's Beach sought work elsewhere. The population had dropped to 140 by 1966, when people began to resettle permanently.
- A few families stayed the winter, but by the fall of 1967 the community was deserted.
- A total of 45 families settled in Arnold's Cove, 10 in Dunville, six in Burin and the rest elsewhere.
- A handful of fishermen continued to fish the waters off Kings Island for cod and lobster.
- A reunion was held in 1992, attracting people from various places in Newfoundland, Canada and the United states.

J.W.Smith (1981), Census (1836-1986), Lovell's Newfoundland Directory (1871), Archives (A-7-1/H), Newfoundland Historical Society (Petite Forte), Hand Book Gazetteer and Almanac, Newfoundland 1940, Up to the Islands (Memories of Tack's Beach), Howard C. Brown, Philip R. Hollett