

Anglican Parish of Bonavista fonds. - 1786 - 1835. - 5 cm

Administrative history

In 1723, Rev. Henry Jones was appointed the first residing clergyman in Bonavista, three years later he established the first school in Newfoundland. In 1736, the first Anglican Church was built and during his first eight years he baptized 119 people.

In 1740, Rev. W. Peasley was appointed Rector of the Parish. After his departure in 1744 there was no resident clergyman at Bonavista for the next seventy years and services were carried out by three devoted laymen: Abraham Ackerman, Thomas Gaylor and Dr. Clinch.

The second church was built by a Mr. Joseph Brown at his own expense in the year 1822 and the third church was built during the ministry of Rev. A. E. C. Bayley in 1862, the fourth church in 1931 and the present church during the ministry of Rev. Charles Green.

Source: Administrative history provided by Rev. Darrogh Fagan, Rector of the Parish of Bonavista.

Custodial history

The custodianship of the records is not known. It is speculated that the records of marriage for this time period were recorded at Trinity, as according to the Marriage Act that is included with this record the clergyman in Bonavista would have to report any marriages in his parish to the clergyman in Trinity in order that they be recorded in accordance with the Act.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of photocopies of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the Parish of Bonavista, 1786 - 1834 and an original register of marriages for a variety of churches on the Bonavista Peninsula, mostly from the Bonavista Bay area, 1825 - 1835. The first part of the record contains a handwritten note on the Marriage Act as passed by Parliament in the Fifth year of George IV, Chapter LXVIII, Section VI. According to the law anyone performing a marriage after March 25, 1825 is supposed to deliver to either the Secretary of the Governor or to the incumbent or officiating minister of some church or chapel of the established church of England in the towns of St. John=s, Harbour Grace or Trinity a certificate of marriage. This is then to be entered into a marriage register and is to be kept at that site.

Notes

Supplied title based on documentation in the fonds.

Location: The photocopies have been placed in protective sleeves and are located in a black binder

Original records held in Church Records Box 15.