

## 1774 Order

*Whereas you, Wm. Keene, Esqr., one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the District of Bonavista, together with the principal Merchants and Inhabitants Trading and residing at that place, having signified to me in your Petition that for the more effectual securing of the public peace and tranquillity of His Majesty's subjects residing in the District, experience has shown you that one great means of obtaining that desirable end, is, by removing the Nuisance occasioned by sundry Idle and worthless Papists, contrary to Law fixing themselves in a certain concealed place called by the name of Bird Island Cove where every evil person may find an asylum when they fly from justice, where stolen goods have been conveyed and which is become a nest of such people who in general are a pest to society and therefore request I will give an order for removing and suppressing this Growing Evil so prejudicial to the fishery and the inhabitants of Bonavista, in consequence of which you, with all other Civil Officers, are hereby authorized to take all legal measures of removing and preventing in future the Nuisance you complain of, by sending all lawless Vagrants and Vagabonds frequenting the said Bird Island Cove out of the Country and forbidding any Person whatsoever from Cutting out or clearing Fishing Rooms in that concealed place in the future.*

*Given under my hand at*

*St. John's this 7th Oct, 1774*

*To:*

*Wm. Keene, Esq. one of the Justices  
of the Peace and Mr. Benjamin Lester  
and other inhabitants of the district  
who signed the petition to the  
Governor, by His Excellency's  
command.*

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Information Provided by Mr. Doug Cole