

## Anglican Church

From the N.C. Crewe File (N.C. Crewe File, PANL, P4/13.):

*...The new (present) Church of England church...built about 1870...no doubt the cottage roofed predecessor was demolished about 1865-70, services perhaps being continued in houses. My brother-in-law, Arthur Tilley, says he heard his father, agent Robert Tilley, say that they were held in "Bremner's old store" in the dock (later bought by William Hobbs)...*

The **Tilley Collection** contains an agreement between the Ryders of Bonavista and Robert Tilley with reference to the construction of the third Anglican Church (The Tilley Collection, PANL, P7/A/67.):

*Bird Island Cove*

*June 6, 1872.*

*It is hereby agreed between Robert Tilly, trustee for the Bird Island Cove Church, on the one part, and Allan Ryder, and his son Robert on the other, that they hereby agree to work in the capacity of undertakers and carpenters; Allan Ryder at the rate of ten pounds per calendar month and son Robert, six pounds, ten shillings per calendar month. To find themselves in board and lodgings. It is hereby further agreed that in consideration of said, Allan Ryder and son Robert faithfully perform their duty without neglect or hindrance according to the true intent and meaning of this agreement, said Robert Tilly hereby binds himself to see them paid according to the foregoing stipulations, and Allan Ryder hereby agrees that he will take no spirituous liquor during the time of his service in connection with the Bird Island Cove Church aforesaid.*

*In witness whereof the contracting parties hereto set their hands the date first above written.*

*Allan Ryder*

*Robert Ryder*

*Robert Tilly*

The following excerpt is from a document dated June 8, 1875 (The Tilley Collection, PANL, P6/B/16.):

*Bird Island Cove.*

*It is hereby agreed between Arthur Tilly, trustee for the Bird Island Cove Church, on the one part and Allan Rider on the other, that the said Allan Rider agrees to*

*work in the capacity of undertaker and carpenter at the rate of ten pounds currency per calendar month. To find himself in board and lodgings...*

*Allan Ryder*

*Arthur Tilly, Trustee*

*Witness*

*Chas E. Thompson*

The ledger for 1874-75 in the **Tilley Collection** contains a note by N.C. Crewe written in 1959 (The Tilley Collection, PANL, P7/A/67.):

*This ledger is an account book of the late Robert Tilly, then being administered by his oldest son Arthur Tilly, Robert having died in 1872. Robert's grandson, Arthur, has just told me that he has heard it said by his father (Robert of Robert) that the present Church of England church in Elliston was built during the last years of Robert Sr., and was completed soon after his death. It is well known that the builder was Allan Ryder of Bonavista (a carpenter by trade who had come out from his native England (Torquay, I think)) to build the Church of England church at Bonavista and settled there, his son being Robert Ryder, a painter who died about 1926...*

The Tilley Collection contains the following letters written by A.E.C. Bayly to Mr. Arthur Tilley:

*October 17, 1884*

*My Dear Arthur,*

*Robert Ryder will be ready to finish off the Bird Island Cove Church next Friday. Have you any linseed oil boiled? In the mean time will you be kind enough to let the ladder be taken up to the Church...I expect that the Bishop will be here the first boat in November when he will consecrate the Church and Church yard..*

And again on November 24, 1884:

*My Dear Arthur,*

*The Bishop arrived in Catalina yesterday afternoon at 3:30 P.M. He will be arriving here this afternoon. Service 7:00 P.M. Consecration of Bird Island Church and yard tomorrow morning at 10:30 or 11:00...Those who signed petitions will have to escort Bishop from Church door to Vestry room and also when he takes his place at the alter will have to stand before the alter while petition is presented and read.*

From the **Tilley Collection** (The Tilley Collection, PANL, P7/A/67.) is this note by N.C. Crewe:

*Elizabeth (Mrs. Mark) Way was the eldest sister of Arthur Tilley, first married to James Baker, outliving both her husbands, lost both children in childhood; a woman of natural refinement, licensed to conduct services in the Anglican church in Elliston, the only female lay reader I have ever heard of.*

The greater portion of the funds necessary for the construction of church property, support of the clergy, and the purchase of fuel and other incidentals required for the routine operation of the church was obtained from donations made by the congregation. Other small sums were raised, however, by the "putting off" of "times" - a collective term for any function to which paid admission or the purchase of goods was required. Soup suppers, bean suppers, concerts at which sweets and homemade ice cream were sold, and band recitals, were all "times". The following is a report of one such time held by the Anglican church in Bird Island Cove on October 28, 1891 (The Diocesan Magazine, December, 1891, p. 10, ACC NR.):

#### *BIRD ISLAND COVE*

*A TEA meeting under the auspices of the Church of England took place at Bird Island Cove on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup>, October. There were three tables furnished by Mrs. Robert Tilley, Miss Helen Tilley and Mrs. Hubely. Each of the tables seated thirty-six persons, and was filled a second time.*

*The sum realized was about thirty five dollars (\$35.00). The object of the meeting was to raise funds for putting a good substantial paling fence around the churchyard. A grand entertainment, consisting of songs, quartettes, duets, etc., with a beautiful selection from the brass and string band characterized the meeting. After the proceedings had been gone through, the Chairman Rev. A.E.C. Bayly called the attention of the audience to a half dozen cakes that had been left. They were soon disposed of at a reasonable price. The meeting was a large one, considering the stormy night. Many from Catalina and Bonavista were present, showing their appreciation of the movement, which is the first of the kind from our friends there, and we wish them every success in their future undertakings. Messrs. Robert and Arthur Tilly, Mr. Hubely, and others are to be congratulated upon the success of the entire arrangement. The room selected for the occasion was nicely decorated with a perfusion of flags, and was well lighted. We intend to start a tea meeting by and by at Bonavista, but we don't guarantee such a tea as the above for twenty cents.*

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Information Provided by Mr. Doug Cole