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Published by Ronald Caplan on 1980/8/1

island. Getting close, he started holler? ing down. They didn't believe they were close. So he hit the island. A very gentle breeze was blowing--only about a 13-ton schooner, wasn't going very fast. Father saw her coming. He was down there when it hit the rocks. When it hit, that kid let go the tiller and he ran forward to the bowsprit and he jumped ashore. Father sent him up the house and got aboard the schooner. Knew the men, chased them ashore. Luckily, no serious damage. Leaking some for? ward quite a bit. He got her off and put her out to anchor. Kept them on the island all night and sent them on their way the next day. That's the only time a schooner ever made a call to the island. (Then it wasn't really a lifesaving station?) No, it wasn't. But they always had a lifeboat handy. My older brother was there to help--he'd be about 12. That time you're a man at 12. Of course there'd be fishermen there at times. There were two men drowned, right in the harbour, when my grandfather was lightkeeper on that island. Father was a young man, home from the sea, visiting at that time. There was a storm on. They had their big boats anchored off and a small boat came in to the island. They were out tending the big boat--these two men--and they upset a boat in the surf, right in the harbour. It's a harbour twice as big as this house--not a bad little harbour when you get in it. But the sea was surging back and forth in the harbour. Grandfather was up at the house, and Father was up on the grass somewhere and he heard the commotion and he went down. And he could see one man in the surf. He grabbed a boat. There were some older men there. They wouldn't let him go. There was no boat could live in that surf, they\* said. They wouldn't let Father go. And those two men drowned. Right there in the harbour. Grandfather arrived. He was going to run them all off the island. Cursed them up what all kinds of cowards they were. Too late then, of course. Father was a good swimmer. Upset the boat, wouldn't mean a thing. He fought to get clear but they wouldn't let him go. The fishermen always came there jigging squid in the summer. They'd anchor their schooners close to the island and go away in dories, jigging squid. Used the squid for bait, trawl for codfish. Spend their nights aboard the schooners. (Would they come ashore, visit?) Oh, yes. And there were French dory fishermen • Father invited them ashore. And Mother gave them all a drink of buttermilk and a lunch. That was a big schooner, from France they used to come, the salt fishermen. They were fishing cod at an island bank and they'd come in jigging squid too. Those men didn't get ashore from the time they left France till they got back again. Those years, they took supplies with them, rarely went in any harbour. Until they started getting engines in boats, fishermen stayed on the island in summer, dried their cod there. This is not lobster fishermen. They had a lobster canning factory there at one time--my grandfather ran it for a time--but the most of the fishing was cod fishing. They were from Alder Point, Little Bras d'Or, mainly. They had fishing shacks on the island. There was one time there were as many as 16 fishing shacks. And one fellow had a little store--he sold sugar and tobacco and so forth. They'd go up there usually in May. Then in August the fish would slack off, the water is warm. Then they'd go back there in the



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