

The Windsor Family: Greenspond, Swain's Island, Wesleyville

By Clifford Andrews, 1984

John Windsor, an Englishman from Dorset, England, first came to the Island of Greenspond probably in the year 1780. At that time he was about 20 years of age.

It is fairly safe to assume that John Windsor, like so many of his fellow-countrymen of his time, was engaged by one of the Poole merchants as an apprentice to come to Greenspond to engage in the fishing industry for the summer months – a practice that was common in England from 1750-1800.

Historical references indicate that the apprenticeship agreement required that the young man would be in the service of the merchant for three summers, after which time, if he so desired, he could emigrate.

John probably became a resident in 1783, and there is enough speculative evidence to believe that a brother of John, William, emigrated at the same time and went to Fogo.

Slade's business records for Fogo, Provincial Archives, show that a William Windsor was a customer at their general store for the years 1784, 1785, 1786, as a servant, and in the year 1791, as an independent fisherman.

Assuming that William was about 22 years of age when he arrived in Fogo, he would have been born in 1761. John, of Greenspond, was born in 1759.