

8

To the right along Beaver Pond Road is **LAKEVIEW**, a salt box structure built by James Whalen in 1872, and acquired by the Thompson family, publishers of *The Vindicator*, in the late 1800s. This house exhibits a typical 'Brigus front porch' of glass, and chimneys enclosed in small roofed structures called 'wickets'. In the rock near the gateway are **THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS**, large ascending indentations, the origin of which is unknown.



(V-à-V)

9

**THE ORANGE LODGE**, erected in 1869, is the second oldest Loyal Orange Lodge in Newfoundland and Labrador. Its charter members are named in the monument adjacent. There are two horse-drawn hearses, one for winter use and one for summer, in the shed just behind it. A large carved arch inside is the work of master carpenter Robert Bartlett whose Mansard-style house and red workshop still stand nearby. The south part of the house was built first, a common practice in Brigus, resulting in front doors that are not centred.

10

**VINDICATOR LANE**, named for the Office of the local newspaper, *The Vindicator*, features one of the town's longest and finest dry rock walls for which Brigus is well known. Many of these were built during the influx of the 'Irish Youngsters', workers engaged by settlers and planters in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

## Stone Barn Walks

- 1 The Inner Harbour and Rattley Row
- 2 Irishtown, South Street, and Hawthorne
- 3 Churches, Around The Boilers, and Vindicator Lane

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PO Box 232, Brigus, NL, A0A 1K0

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For further reading, see John N. Leamon, *Brigus—Past Glory, Present Splendour* (Cuff Publishing, 1998).

photo: Simeon Parsons



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View of the town of Brigus  
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# Brigus



## Stone Barn Walks

3

Churches,  
Around the Boilers,  
and Vindicator Lane

Time: 45 min

Grade: Easy

\* Start: Top of Church Hill



At the top of **CHURCH HILL** just past the entrance to the **BARTLETT GRAVEYARD** is **BRIGUS UNITED CHURCH**. Built in 1875, this was the second Methodist church in Brigus, the first being the 1808 Wesleyan Chapel in Thunderbolt Lane. The church's silver baptismal font was bequeathed to the Wesleyan Chapel 'by the Young Men of Brigus' in 1815. The church's functional Bevington pipe organ was installed in 1876. The church underwent unsympathetic renovations in 1963 when the north and south porches, the shuttered bell tower, with its tall spire and weather vane, and many other internal features were all removed.



BHCS

Brigus United Church

1

**GRAVEYARDS** These cemeteries for both the Church of England and Methodist (now United Church) congregations date to the early 1800s. Other burials were re-interred from Englishtown following the collapse of the Reformed Episcopalian Church around 1900.



(V-à-V)



2

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**, constructed in 1876, was the second Anglican church to be built on this site. A Reformed Episcopal Church of St. George was erected close to the south wall of the present structure in 1844, where the graveyard is now. The east window in St George's is the oldest stained glass window in Brigus, installed c. 1880. Both churches were built under the direction of George C. Jerrett.



(BHCS)

3

Following the churchyard's curved stone wall one comes to **THE BARTLETT SAILES**. Erected by National Historic Sites in 1972, these stylized steel sails stand as a monument to Captain Bob Bartlett on the site of the home of William Percey. Percey once took command of a British warship after she was icebound and abandoned by her captain and crew. He was subsequently given leave to fly the naval ensign and was thus referred to as the 'Admiral'.



(W-a-v)



4

The waterfront from Bishop's Beach to the Oil Beach in Riverhead was once dotted with huge vats or 'boilers' where seal fat and cod livers were rendered into oil. Thus, one walked **AROUND THE BOILERS**, as the area is still called today.



(BHCS)

5

**THE TUNNEL** was constructed in 1860 by Cornish miner John Hoskins to provide Captain Abram Bartlett easier access to his waterfront property. The only explosive used was black gunpowder and the work was completed in four months. Across from the tunnel is **MOLLY'S ISLAND** where Capt. Bob Bartlett held exotic Arctic animals en route to American zoos.



(Memorial University Libraries)

*Polar bear aboard of Captain Bartlett's ship*

Further along The Walk, a plaque marks the site of the first **METHODIST SCHOOL** in Brigus.

6

**ANTLE'S BEACH** in Riverhead was the site of **KEMP'S SHIPBUILDING DOCK**. Brigus was a thriving shipbuilding port in the nineteenth century. G. and J. Kemp of Poole, England, operated here and in 1819 the *Four Brothers* was built, the first sealing vessel of over 100 tons.

7

At the top of Cottage Hill on Riverhead Road is the site of the old **RABBITS HOUSE**, a mansion of 23 rooms, one of the largest houses ever built in Brigus. It burned to the ground on June 27, 1908.