

▼ 13

**WATER STREET** was once a causeway which ran directly across the Inner Harbour. Its walls which are now concealed by “made land” on either side are known to be 6 to 7 feet thick in places. Water Street was an important business and residential section of Brigus, home to several general stores. The Hiscock homes and what is now the Brittoner Guesthouse (named for its patriotic owner, Captain John “Brittoner” Wilcox) remain from that early grandeur. Notice the detail of a dolphin bas-relief by Rockwell Kent in a gable of one of the houses.



(V-a-V)

▼ 14

**WILCOX GARDENS** Owned and operated by the Brigus Historical and Conservation Society, Inc. since 1988, this site was donated by the Wilcox family who occupied a dwelling on the property since the mid 1800s. In the early 1900s, part of the dwelling housed the Wilcox Boarding House where families such as those of Doctors A.C. Hunter and A.G. Hatcher spent summer vacations. Today the gardens are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

*Magistrate Wilcox and his daughter, c. 1870*



Maritime History Archives

## 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

The Society acknowledges funding from the Cultural Economic Development Program of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.



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



Graphic design Visa-a-Vis Graphics

*View of the town of Brigus, c. 1900*

(Memorial University Libraries)

# Brigus



## Stone Barn Walks

1

The Inner Harbour  
and  
Rattley Row

Time: 45 min

Grade: Easy

\* Start: Ye Olde Stone Barn Museum



**YE OLDE STONE BARN** was originally built in 1820 by Charles Cozens as one of three stone buildings for his fishing operations. After the Cozens firm went bankrupt, it was from 1830 the residence of a Scottish surgeon, Dr. Dolby, who hanged himself there in 1837. From 1850 onwards it was the home of John C. Nuttall, the customs collector. Eventually it passed to the Roberts family who converted it into a barn, which subsequently fell into disrepair. The Brigus Historical and Conservation Society, Inc. purchased it in 1987, and rebuilt the barn for use as a museum to showcase the history of Brigus through its collection of artefacts and photographs.

▼ 1

**MAGISTRATE'S HILL** is named after the imposing dwelling of Magistrate John Wilcox which occupied considerable area along its north side. The radio station V02Z once operated from a second-floor room in the house. The building was demolished in the 1960s.



(V-a-V)

▼ 2

### MALCOLM BARTLETT – VINDICATOR PARK

is so named to honour the donor, Malcolm Bartlett, and *The Vindicator and Brigus Reporter*, a Wednesday newspaper sold for a penny a copy from 1898 to 1903 and printed by the Thompson family from this location. The stone Vindicator Office was built in 1820 by Charles Cozens to be used as a school for his employees' children. The park's name plaque is actually the base of the old printing press manufactured by Pickup and Buchanan, iron founders in Liverpool.



▼ 3

**BARRACKS LANE** was the site of the Salvation Army Barracks from c.1889 to c.1894. After the Salvation Army withdrew from Brigus, the old barracks was used for a period of time to store nets and twine.

▼ 4

**THE OLD ANTLE BURYING GROUND** is thought to have been used as a burial site before even the oldest of the town's denominational cemeteries. The last known burial was that of John Antle in 1840.

▼ 5

**THE BARTLETT MONUMENT** features a bronze bas-relief relief profile sculpted by James R. Ewing and erected to Captain Bob's memory by his friends in 1948.



▼ 6

**PETTICOAT LANE ON MIDDLE RIDGE** perhaps took its name from the fact that it is a notoriously windy place, which must have proved troublesome for ladies out walking.

▼ 7

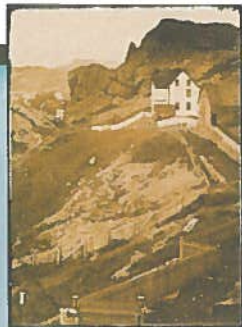
**THE OLD STONE STEPS** are what is left of a thriving mercantile district in Brigus, destroyed in a 1935 fire. To the right of the steps, now buried by fill, are two rounded-arch cellars above which a tall house once stood.



Rattley Row Battery Road



Old Medical Hall



The Battery

photo: V. Taylor-Hood

▼ 8

**GRAVE HILL**, at the top of the steps, once had a unique graveyard built from ground level and held in place by a curved dry rock wall about six feet high at its rounded outer end. It had mounded graves, and was probably the burial place of an Indian woman named "Marg" whose burial in Brigus is recorded in church records as February 19, 1810. The graveyard was developed in the 1960s, and the bones re-interred in a common box in the Anglican cemetery.

▼ 9

**RATTLEY ROW**, the name given to the area up the hill from the stone steps, appeared first in voters' lists of the early 1800s and is thought to have originated from the nautical term "ratlines", the rounds of a ladder in a ship's rigging. On stormy nights the rattling of the ratlines on the ships crowding the waterfront echoed loudly through the area.



▼ 10

**BATTERY ROAD**, off to the right up Rattley Row, leads past Bunker's Hill to the section of Brigus known as "The Battery". On this road is **LANDFALL/KENT COTTAGE**, built and owned by the influential mercantile Pomeroy family from c. 1786-1930. It was deserted from 1906 until Rockwell Kent restored the cottage as he spent time in Brigus in 1914. Kent was well liked by many in the town, but caused trouble for others. He was subsequently accused of being a German spy, and deported to the United States in 1915. In 1930, the cottage was bought by A.E. Harris, an influential English artist, who died at Brigus in 1933. It was granted status as a heritage structure in 1988, and is currently operated by a trust bequeathed by its most recent owner, Jake Folensbee.

▼ 11

**FOWLER HOUSE**, dating from the early 1800s, has a second story doorway roller which was used to load nets into the top floor twine loft. It also illustrates the mercantile nature of Brigus, as later it was used to load goods for Mrs. Garland's millinery shop below.

▼ 12

**SITE OF THE OLD MEDICAL HALL** Only portions of the foundation wall remain of this once prominent building. Kavanagh's Apothecary Shop was on the first floor, the doctor's office on the second. The founding meeting of the Brigus Glee Club, the gentlemen's social club and forerunner to the Jubilee Club, took place here in 1889. The building was used as a general store by the Sheas until it was destroyed in the early 1970s.