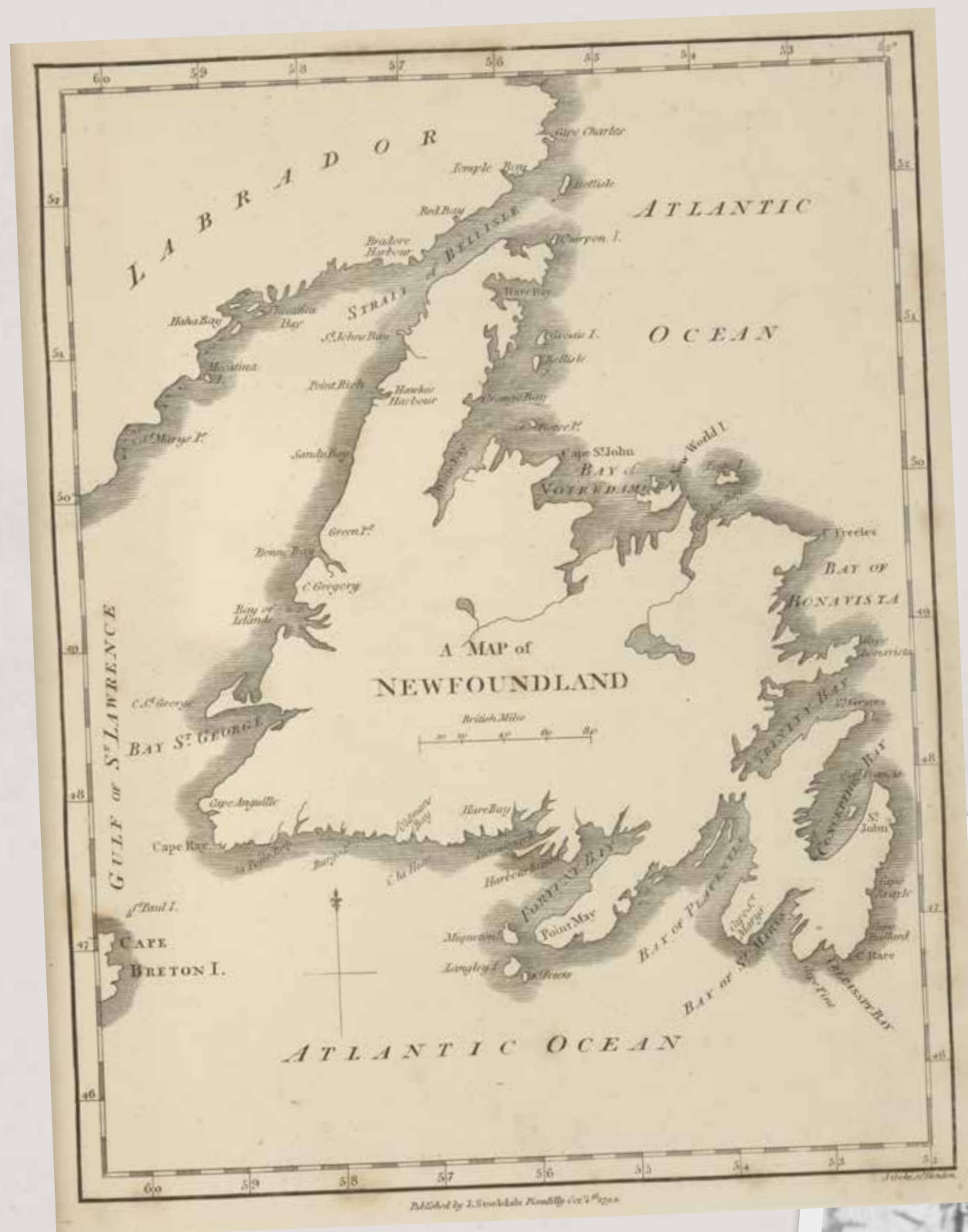


Newfoundland Trade

From the 1700s cod fisheries were well established in Newfoundland, Canada. Sailors travelled there to work from England, employed by English merchants who bankrolled the entire operation. Although largely from Devon, some Poole merchants - including the Spurriers - were involved in this lucrative trade.



Above:
A map of Newfoundland 1794
The New York Public
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The Spurriers

The Spurrier family, having established their business in 1672, operated their fishing fleet in Newfoundland from the southern bays of St Mary's and at Burin, away from the crowded fisheries on the north of the island.

Pride of the Spurrier fleet was a three-masted barquentine named "Upton" built in Newfoundland in 1787.

William Spurrier used his wealth from the business to buy land at Upton in the late 1700s.

William's son, Christopher Spurrier (1783-1876), inherited the Upton Estate and built Upton House between 1816-1818, in the fashionable neo-classical style. The House was built so that it could be seen from Poole Quay and show off the wealth of the Spurriers.



Right:
Sailors on Poole Quay



Atlantic Cod

The effect of this international trade on the indigenous Beothuk people of Newfoundland was profound. Trading posts around the coast cut them off from their fishing grounds, leading to conflict, malnutrition and the eventual extinction of the Beothuk in Newfoundland by 1829.

Poole's trading fortune not only came from fishing, with some merchants involved directly in the slave trade from West Africa to the Caribbean. Though the Newfoundland fishing trade was with Spain and Portugal, cod's suitability to be dried and salted made it ideal for long sea voyages and would have played a role in supporting this too.



1. Barquentine - the type of ship used by the Spurriers in Newfoundland
2. Upton House during the mid 1800s by Edmund Havell junior
3. Miniature portrait of Demesduit, one of the last members of the Beothuk tribe painted in 1819



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