

CAPTAIN JAMES WESTROPP BRERETON
(1830 - 1911)



COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Within the Provinces of
MANITOBA AND ONTARIO
20 December 1878

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE
RAT PORTAGE (KENORA)

PREFACE

I have always been interested in tracing my Brereton family history and after many years have completed a number of documents, including this story of my great-grandfather Captain James Westropp Brereton. The other documents¹ are *The Breretons of Ireland*, *Brereton Hall* and the *Breretons of Cheshire*.

While researching church records in Ireland for the document, *Breretons of Ireland*, I was able to find the Captain's parents and information about their children of Dublin, Ireland. This information confirmed data I had found in my great-grandfather's diaries and bibles (which are housed in the Glenbow Museum, in Calgary).

My grandfather David Brereton was one of four children who emigrated to Canada with his parent Ursula and James Brereton. At this point in my research, I have the names and birthdates of each sibling and have found references to the children in the Captain's diaries. However I am still searching for the families of Richard (Dick) Ralph Westropp Brereton **and** James William Henry (Harry) Brereton Richard.

This document was written to satisfy my quest and to share with my family; however it will be placed on the brereton.org website and perhaps, in time, another descendant of the Captain will read this story and the mystery of David's brothers will be solved.

¹ The documents can be found on the website - brereton.org or by contacting the author at brereton.faye@gmail.com

FAMILY OF CAPTAIN JAMES WESTROPP BRERETON

IRELAND

Captain James Westropp Brereton was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1830. He was the son of David Brereton of 12 York Street, Dublin (circa 1808 – 1861²) and his wife Margaret Brereton (maiden name unknown).

David, Margaret and children were members of the Church of Ireland, St. Peter's Parish, Dublin. The church records provided new information about the family and confirmed details outlined in the bible and diaries of Captain James Westropp Brereton.

To date, the author has not identified David and Margaret's parents or siblings; however, William Westropp Brereton was also a member of St. Peter's Parish and appears to be the same generation as David. Further, given the use of the name 'Westropp'³ one can assume there is a connection between the two families, either through David or Margaret.

In the 1842 and 1850 census records, David Brereton⁴ is identified as an MD living at 12 York Street. His occupation, in various documents including baptismal records, also includes reference to MDTCD (the TCD being Trinity College, Dublin). He was also a witness to the marriage of Maria Warren, Upper Abbey Street, in 1842; quite possibly a servant.

It is interesting to note that a Dr. William Westropp Brereton lived in Kerry County, in 1924, and was a professor of surgery in Galway.

Along with the Captain's diaries (which are housed in the Glenbow Museum, in Calgary) are a number of bibles owned by Captain James Brereton. The following is written in the front of one Bible:

The Hermitage, Brereton Point 1901

*If Thou are borrowed by a friend;
Right welcome shall he be;
To read, to study, not to lend;*

² The Captain has mentioned in his diary that his father (unnamed) died 2 November 1861; however, the author has not been successful in finding a death record. Perhaps like son Joshua he moved to England – of perhaps another Parish of Ireland.

³ Dr. William Westropp Brereton lived in Kerry County, in 1924, and was a professor of surgery in Galway.

⁴ According to the Cork Examiner (COR IRL), there was a Dr. David Brereton of Dublin City, co. Dublin who died on 9 November 1846 (a generation before the father of James). His life spanned 1785-1846

But to return to me.

*Not that imparted knowledge doth;
Diminish learning's store;
But books, I find, if often lent;
Return to me no more.*

*Read slowly, pause frequently
Think seriously, keep clean;
Return duly with the corners
of the leaves not
turned down.*

*Attributed to
D. Brereton, M.D⁵.*

The following Breretons are identified, along with their occupation and address, in the 1850 Census Records for the City of Dublin:

David Brereton, 12 York St (doctor of medicine)
J. Brereton, 49 Grafton St (occupant not listed)
Joshua Brereton, 12 York St (solicitor)
Mrs. Brereton, 49 Grafton St (baby linen warehouse)
Mrs. Brereton, 47 Queen's Sq East (seminary for young ladies)
Thomas Brairton, 8 Moore St (china warehouse - spelt Brairton in street listing)
William Brereton, 134 Lower Baggot St (librarian)
William R Brereton, 2 Lower Baggot St (circulating library)
William Westropp Brereton, 14 Lower Pembroke St (barrister - Trinity term 1836)

John R. Brereton is listed in the Law Directory (no address shown) as a barrister – Easter term 1843.

⁵ Possibly the father or perhaps grandfather of James Westropp Brereton

FAMILY OF DAVID AND MARGARET BRERETON

1) DR DAVID AND MARGARET BRERETON

David and Margaret had issue:

- 1.1) *Joshua Brereton (died 7 November 1898)*
- 1.2) *Catherine Louisa Brereton (11 June, 1837 – 1900) m. 1st Horatio Nelson Lawder of Aghanore House, Rossccommon, Ireland, 2nd Thomas Ievers*
- 1.3) *Margaret (Madge) Emily Brereton (died 3 March, 1899) m. Thomas Newnham Wright, Sharkhill*
- 1.4) *Jemima Brereton (1830-?),*
- 1.5) *David Brereton (circa October 1842 - ?)*
- 1.6) *David Thomas Shane Vance Brereton (6 June, 1841 - ?)*
- 1.7) *Suzanne Jane Brereton (12 September, 1835 - ?)*
- 1.8) *James Westropp Brereton (1830- 1911) of Dublin and Canada m. Ursula Harnett*

1.1) JOSHUA BRERETON (Died 7 November, 1898)

In the 1850 Dublin Census, Joshua Brereton was identified as a Solicitor living at 12 York Street, Dublin. In 1862, perhaps following his father's death in 1861, he moved to 13 Harcourt Street and Monta Vesta, Dalkey Chambers, Dublin.

Research has uncovered an 1874 Law Review where Joshua is noted (3 times) as being the solicitor 'having carriage of a sale of property' at Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, Four Courts. His address was 13 Harcourt St. Dublin. According to his brother's diaries, Joshua was killed in an omnibus accident in London, England on 7 November, 1898. Joshua may have been living at the Constitutional Club⁶ in London at the time as his brother James Westropp (referred to as the

⁶ **The Constitutional Club** was a London gentlemen's club, now dissolved, which was established in 1883 and was disbanded in 1979. Between 1886 and 1959 it had a distinctive red and yellow Victorian Neo-Gothic terracotta building at 28 Northumberland Avenue, off Trafalgar Square. The Club was closely aligned to the Conservative party, with members having to pledge support. The club was founded in anticipation of imminent franchise reform then being debated in parliament, which was eventually realised as the Representation of the People Act 1884. It was anticipated that as many more Conservative supporters would be given the vote, many would want to belong to a Conservative club. Existing Conservative clubs like the Carlton and the Junior Carlton feared that they would become inundated with membership applications from the new voters, so the Constitutional Club was founded with these new electors in mind. (The National Liberal Club, just around the corner from the Constitutional Club, was founded in 1882 with the same purpose in mind for the Liberal party, as the existing Liberal clubs, the Reform and the Devonshire, had been similarly oversubscribed.) The Constitutional Club's membership was originally limited to 6,500. Despite being avowedly non-political, P.G. Wodehouse was a member of the Constitutional Club, and was reputed to have considered it his favourite London club. Seven of his stories describe a fictitious Senior Conservative Club in Northumberland Avenue, with a similar décor to the Constitutional, and which also features a Turkish bath, just like the Turkish bath found next door to the Constitutional. Like many other London clubs of its time, the Constitutional experienced severe financial difficulties with the passing years. In 1959, they agreed to the demolition

Captain) sent correspondence to that address. The Captain also noted in the diary that Joshua was buried at Kersal Green Cemetery, London England. The author has been unsuccessful to date in finding a record of Joshua in London, England and the Constitutional Club (which could have proved to be a good source) is no longer in existence.

1.2) KATHERINE LOUISA BRERETON (11 June 1837 - 1900) m. 1st Horatio Nelson Lawder of Aghanore House, Roscommon, Ireland, 2nd Thomas Ievers

Katharine was born 11 June, 1837 and baptised at St. Peter's Church on 24 June, 1837. She has also been identified as living at 12 York Street, Dublin⁷.

On 10 February, 1875, she married widower, Horatio Nelson Lawder of Aghancore House⁸, Drenusua Co., Roscommon, Ireland. His occupation was shown as Esquire; his father was solicitor, John Lawder. John Vance was a witness for the marriage of Katherine and Horatio. At the time of her marriage, her father David Brereton was identified as MDTCD.

In 1882, she married Thomas Ievers of Dingle Co., Kerry, Clerk of the Dingle Union. At the time of her second marriage, Katherine Louise lived at 13 Harcourt; the marriage was held at St. Mark's, Church of Ireland, Dublin with her brother Joshua Brereton was her witness. Katherine died in 1900 and was buried at St. Michael's, Dublin.

1.3) MARGARET (Madge) EMILY BRERETON⁹ (?-3 March 1899) m. Thomas Newnham Wright, of Sharkhill

Margaret, who also lived at 12 York Street, Dublin, married Thomas Newnham Wright, Sharkhill, a merchant, on 12 August, 1854. Her father, David Brereton MD was her witness. Other witnesses were William Wright (father of the groom) and Charles Hann. Margaret died 3 March, 1899 in London.

1.4) JEMIMA BRERETON (7 July, 1846 - ?)

Jemima was born 7 July, 1846, and baptized at St. Peter's, Dublin. David Brereton MD is identified as her father on the baptism certificate and was a witness to her marriage. She was not identified by the Captain in his diaries; however, she could have been illegitimate or may have died before James, Margaret and their four children immigrated to Canada. Her relationship to the Captain and siblings cannot be confirmed at this time.

of the club's well-known, purpose-built terracotta premises, and its replacement with a new office-style building, which was completed in 1962 - this is the building which still stands on that site today, on the corner of Northumberland Avenue and Northumberland Street, opposite the Sherlock Holmes pub.

⁷ St. Peter's Church records

⁸ Agahmore refers to the county or area

1.5) DAVID THOMAS SHANE VANCE BRERETON (6 June, 1841 - ?)

David was born 6 June, 1841 and baptized on 6 July, 1841. His parents (David Brereton MD and Margaret) and also his address (12 York Street, Dublin) would identify him as a sibling.

David was a witness at the marriage of John Vance - tying him to this name even though he is also not identified by Captain Brereton.

1.6) SUZANNE JANE BRERETON (12 September, 1835 - ?)

In church records she is shown as being born 12 September, 1835, the daughter of David and Margaret of St. Peter's Parrish - living at 12 York Street, Dublin. Again this sibling was not identified by the Captain.

1.7) DAVID BRERETON (circa October 1842 - ?)

Another David, identified as living at 12 York Street was baptized 24 October, 1842 at St Peter's, Dublin. His father was David Brereton, MD and mother Margaret. There is no other record of this David. While the baptism dates are different - one could be a birth date and the second a baptism date - or the date shown on one record could have been reported in error.

1.8) CAPTAIN JAMES WESTROPP BRERETON (1830-1911) m. Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Harnett (1845 - 1942)¹⁰

James married Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Harnett (of Limerick, Kerry, Ireland) and according to the following record, it appears that prior to emigrating to Canada James was a Constabulary Officer, Sub Inspection Station, Listowel, Kerry, Ireland.

**KERRY COUNTY AND BOROUGH DIRECTORY
CONSTABULARY OFFICERS, LISTOWEL, KERRY 1862**

County Inspector, Thomas Smith, Esquire, Tralee
Sub-Inspectors' Stations
Cahirciveen, John Anketell, Esquire
Castleisland, John Anketell, Esquire
Dingle, William Gilpin, Esquire
Kenmare, J. B. Irwin, Esquire
Killarney, Wellington Colomb, Esquire
Listowel, James Brereton,¹¹ Esquire
Tralee, John Maguire, Esquire

⁹ Joshua, Louisa and Margaret Wright are all identified as siblings, in the Captain's diaries.

¹⁰ According to the Yankton County (U.S.A.) record - at the time of her divorce, Ursula's date of birth was shown as 1845 the port of initial entry into the US was in Detroit in 1897

Another source identified David, Subins Porter of the Constabulary, living at Cork, Co. Bantry, as the spouse of Ursula Caroline Eliza. An article about the police department, of that time, is included in the Appendix.

The baptism record for son, Richard Ralph Brereton¹², on October 8, 1866, in Listowel, reaffirms that James and Margaret lived in Listowel. Richard's parents were identified as Ursula Caroline Eliza Brereton and James Brereton of Bantrif, co. Cork¹³.

In the past, the author had understood that Ursula's maiden name as Harriet; and was unsuccessful in tracing her family. However upon re-examination of the Captain's script and the signatures on other documents (including church records, it became clear that James married Ursula Harnett¹⁴.

Captain James often sent letters to Mrs. R. C. Harnett of Listowel, co. Kerry, Ireland.

While Ursula, James and family were resident of Listowel there was a Coroner in the area, named Ralph Creagh Harnett (also identified as Vice-Chairman) living in The Square, Curraghatoosone,

¹¹ James is also identified as Subins Porter of Constabulary

¹² All the children are identified in Captain Brereton's bible.

¹³ probably Bantry

¹⁴ 1846 William Harnett - birth, Abbey Feale, Limerick,
1862 Edward Harnett, Stamp Distributor, Tarbert (source Kerry Co. Directory: Thom's Almanac) - James Brereton was identified as a Constable, Listowel in the same resource.

1862 Richard Creagh Harnett, Esq. Listowel - Vice Chair, Board of Guardians, Listowel Union - 32 Electoral Div.

William Harnett, Magistrate, Moynsha, Abbeyfeale

David Creigh Harnett, Magistrate, Shannon Lawn, Glin (m. 2nd Catharine Freeman, in 1759), Their son was William Brereton of Carrick, Slayney, Carlow - and he had a son William Edward G. Brereton

William Harnett, Esq, Sub-Sheriff, Tralee

R. C. Harnett, Esq, Listowel - Coroner

1876 William Harnett, Kilcreen, Listowel - Landowner

1901 John Harnett - owner Public House, # 114 Church St Listowel

Edward Harnett, Listowel, Curraghatoosane, Kerry

Richard C. Harnett, The Square, Listowel

Richard Harnett, Clievragh, Listowel

William John Harnett, Islandganniv, North, Listowel

E. Harnett, Esq, Newcastle, Limerick

Professor Edward Harnett, Professor of Irish, Dublin University

1870 Irish Landowners - Kerry

William Harnett, England - 1489 Acres

William Harnett, Kilcreen, Listowel - 813 Acres

Edward Harnett, Castlesland - 79 Acres

Listowel (in 1850). This may have been a relative of Ursula's.¹⁵ At the time Mr. W. Harnett lived at Finuge¹⁶ House, near Listowel.

There is also a Ursula C. E. Harnett identified as living in Listowel, Ireland in 1888¹⁷ which given the initials should be the lady in question – Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Harnett¹⁸

FAMILY OF JAMES WESTROPP AND URSULA CAROLINE ELIZABETH BRERETON

1.1.1 *Richard (Dick) Ralph Westropp Brereton (born 14 September, 1866)*

Born Listowel, co. Kerry, Ireland¹⁹

James William Henry (Harry) Brereton (born 21 February, 1868²⁰)

1.1.2 *Robina (Ina) Elizabeth Margareta²¹ Brereton (10 August, 1874 – 195).*

christened on 7 February, 1875²² at Saint Margaret Church, Brighton, England

1.1.3 *David (Dave) Leslie Dean Brereton,²³ (August, 1865 – 1920)*

(Born Bantry, co. Cork, Ireland²⁴) m. Margaret Martin

1.1.1) **RICHARD (Dick) RALPH WESTROPP BRERETON (14 September, 1866 -?)**

¹⁵ Some Harnett's of Listowel are listed in the Appendix

¹⁶ *FINUGE, a parish, in the barony of Clanmaurice, county of Kerry, and province of Mnuster, 2 miles (S. S. W.) from Listowel, on the river Feale, and on the road from Listowel to Tralee; containing 1431 inhabitants, of which number, 491 are in the village. The parish comprises 3583 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, the greater part of which consists of arable land: of the remainder, about 850 acres are coarse pasture land, 480 bog, and 100 woodland. Some of the arable land is of superior quality: the state of agriculture is gradually improving. Ballinruddery, the occasional residence of the Rt. Hon. Maurice Fitzgerald, Knt. of Kerry, is beautifully situated in a richly wooded demesne on the banks of the Feale. The house is an irregular building, partly thatched and partly slated, and the cottage front is covered with a profusion of climbing plants. A fine carriage road extends for upwards of a mile through the demesne, nearly parallel with the windings of the river. Adjoining the dwelling-house, and on the verge of the river, are the picturesque ruins of the ancient castle of Ballinruddery. The other seats are Ballyhorgan, the residence of W. Hilliard, Esq.; **Finuge House, of W. Harnett, Esq.**; Killocrin House, of Capt. O'Halloran; Finuge Cottage, of Miss Hewson; Bellarne, of H. Hilliard, Esq.; Tanavalla, of A. Elliott, Esq.; and Ballygrinnan, of S. Sewell, Esq.. There are no remains of the church, but the ancient burial-ground is still used.*

¹⁷ Blacksheepindex.co.uk/Listowel

¹⁸ 1870 Landowners, Kerry, Listowel included Wm Harnett, England, owned 1498 acres, Wm. Harnett of Kilcreen, Listowel – 713 acres, Edward Harnett, Castlesland – 79 acres. Also of Listowel, James Edward Harnett, Professor of Iris, Dublin University, Wm. Harnett, Limerick, Abbey Feale, Ireland, born 1846, Danial Creigh Harnett, Shanon Lawn, Glin

¹⁹ His mother is also shown as Harnett.

²⁰ In Latter Day Saints records James is shown as born in Cork, Ireland and mother is shown as Harnett.

²¹ Shown as Rabina Elizabeth Margareta on her birth certificate. Reference #1067354 (1870-1881) Fiche 1 – 6901177 Batch # C146421 – Latter Day Saints records

²² Daughter of James Westropp Brereton and Ursula Brereton

²³ Grandfather of the writer Faye Brereton-Goodwin

²⁴ In Latter Day Saints records his name is shown as Deane and birthplace as Bantry, Cork Ireland. Mother is identified as Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Barnett (batch # C701272, film # 0101119). Mother should be Harnett

The author has no confirmed information about Richard Brereton. The Mormon records show a Richard Brereton²⁵, born 14 September 1866, in Listowel, Kerry and was baptised in Kerry, on October 8, 1866. On the certificate his mother is identified as Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Brereton and his father James Brereton, Bantrif, (probably Bantry) co. Cork.

1.1.2) ROBINA (Ina) ELIZABETH MARGARETTA²⁶ BRERETON (10 Aug, 1874 - 1956)

Robina was christened on 7 February, 1875²⁷ at Saint Margaret Church, Brighton, England. She immigrated to Canada with her family in the late 1800's.

Although there were some comments about her time in Canada, little is known about Robina's youth; however, we do know that she married David Craig Glass, a Marine Engineer. In 1919, the couple leased a lovely Georgian²⁸ home at 2 Clarendon Crescent, Royal Leamington Spa, England. In 1922 Robina purchased the home. David and Robina had one daughter, Betty Glass, who died in her early 30's.

Following the death of her mother's second husband Ursula moved in with Robina.

The author has correspondence between "Ina" and her own mother, written during WWII, that talks about the visits of the author's father A. L. Brereton (who was stationed in Britain during the war) and about the difficulties inflicted by the war.

1.1.3) DAVID LESLIE DEAN (Dave or Leslie) BRERETON

David Leslie Dean Brereton is the grandfather of the author. Born of Irish parentage in Bantry, Ireland, 3 August, 1864, he came with his parents and three siblings to Canada in 1879²⁹.

In 1880 David enter St. John's College, Winnipeg; however, it appears that he only stayed one term before heading west with the C.P.R. (Canadian Pacific Railway) survey working as a chainman. He soon left the survey job for a cowboy's life on the Montana range. Here he fell in with Dutch Patrick and they took jobs with I. G. Baker Company, trailing cattle over the Benton trail to Blackfoot Crossing. Dave married Margaret Martin of Gleichen (her family had also emigrated from Ireland).

²⁵ His mother is also shown as Harnett.

²⁶ Shown as Rabina Elizabeth Margareta in birth certificate. Reference #1067354 (1870-1881) Fiche 1 - 6901177 Batch # C146421 - Latter Day Saints records

²⁷ Daughter of James Westropp Brereton and Ursula Brereton

²⁸ The house in Royal Leamington Spa was purchased by Eliza Amphlett after Robina died in 1956

²⁹ In the 1880 Diary of Capt Brereton he noted that his wife and son David arrived from Toronto April 13, 1879 to Winnipeg.

The author has written the history of this Dave and Margaret and their descendants as a separate history.

In 1876 Captain James and Ursula Brereton, accompanied by their children, David, Robina, Richard (Dick), Ralph Westropp and James William Henry (Harry) emigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, Canada on 15 July, 1876; then moving west, arrived in Toronto (Lambton Mills, Co. of York) Ontario, Canada on 18 October, 1877. They remained in Toronto until 1878 (awaiting confirmation of a commission).

Once he received the documentation³⁰ (see appendix for a copy of the Commission) the Breretons continued their journey westward arriving in Detroit, Michigan, United States of America on 26 March, 1878 and in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. on 27 March, 1878. In his diaries³¹ the Captain noted that while in Chicago he attended St. James Church where Reverend S. Harris officiated. He also noted that he was confirmed by Bishop McLaren on 14 April, 1878. They finally arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 13, 1879³². The family had traveled to western Canada so that James could assume his commission as Dominion Commissioner of Police within the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. This district encompassed the territory from Winnipeg to Eagle River.³³ He was the first Magistrate in Rat Portage, a position he held until the settlement of the boundary dispute in 1884, when Rat Portage went to Ontario. At that time Captain Brereton, being a Conservative, resigned and Mr. Lyons was appointed by the then Liberal Government.

EARLY DAYS AT CROSS LAKE

What an impact the huge landscape of Canada must have had on the family. They arrived in the Winnipeg area when the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway (a dream of Canadian Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald to bring a transcontinental rail link joining the nation from coast to coast) was fully underway in that part of the country. The children would have been 14, 13, 11 and 5 years of age.

³⁰ Source - Provincial Manitoba Gazette - May 10 contains the following appointment: To be a commissioner of police for all the territory within the municipality of Rat Portage and for the territory along side of the Pacific Railway in disputed and extending for a quarter of a mile on side of the railway otherwise known as the Canadian Pacific - magisterial and to have all the powers assigned to a commissioner of police in virtue of the Act 47 2 - James Westropp Brereton of the Municipality of Rat Portage.

³¹ The Captain's diaries and bibles are housed in the Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. They were provided by Alice Brereton-James, granddaughter of James Westropp Brereton, and are on loan to the Glenbow.

³² According to Henderson's Gazetteer and Directory of Manitoba and the Northwest, 1884, Captain Brereton, Police Magistrate, resided at Cross Lake which was situated on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), 94 miles east of Winnipeg and 40 miles west of Rat Portage. There is also a listing under the heading Police Magistrates for James Brereton as magistrate for the county of Varennes, also as magistrate, Rat Portage.

³³ This was subsequently reduced to the country between Rat Portage and Winnipeg.

The land where Captain and Mrs. Brereton settled was a 42.830 acre site, described as part of section 17, township 10, range 17, east of the principal meridian, bounded by the shore of Cross Lake and on the south by the road allowance between sections 8 and 17. The site is now part of the Whiteshell Provincial Park in Northern Manitoba. The property fronts on South Cross Lake and backs onto the C.P.R. (Canadian Pacific Railway) line, which was opened in 1883. This site, protected within the Whiteshell Provincial Park, remains much as it would have when the Breretons moved there in 1880.

Access to the homestead (which is now devoid of any of the original structures) is gained by canoe from Caddy Lake along the Cross Lake narrows and through a rock tunnel under the C.P.R. rail line. A 'google' map showing Cross Lake is provided in the Appendix.

The original settlement was probably very small but by virtue of its location on the new transcontinental railroad Captain and Mrs. Brereton seemed to have many visitors – and travelled often to Winnipeg.

'The rail stretch through Whiteshell was the last bit of construction on the Precambrian Shield before it tapers into the first prairie level. Its completion marked a big step in the mammoth task, which challenged the resources of the young country of Canada'³⁴.

When the line between Winnipeg and Fort William became operational in 1883, Captain Brereton probably witnessed the event in person. A second line, which was to become the C.N.R. (Canadian National Railway), passed through the Whiteshell about 25 years after the C.P.R. was completed. Both railroads encountered similar difficulties at Cross Lake. The swamp lined lake seemed bottomless and vast amounts of fill had to be obtained to build up the high grades. Tunnels were blasted through solid rock to facilitate the flow of water.

While the site was remote, there were visitors to Cross Lake as indicated in the Captain's diary, dated 4 November 1880 indicated 'got telegram from Schreiber at 7:30 P.M. asking for bed for Sir Charles Tupper, (who was a Federal Cabinet Minister from 1878-1884 and later Prime Minister of Canada)'. Sir Charles arrived at about 8:30 P.M. and they all went to bed at about 2:10 A.M. – The Captain being "much pleased." The next day, Friday, 5 November 1880 Sir Charles Tupper, Schreiber and Jarvis had breakfast, then Mrs. Brereton and the Captain went with Sir Charles to Selkirk - up the Red River in a tug and on to Winnipeg. The Breretons stayed at the Queen's Hotel and Sir Charles at Government House. That evening they attended a banquet. The Captain writes that Mrs. Brereton and the Schreibers dressed at the Queens – he dressed with Leacock. On Sunday, 7 November, the Captain and Mrs. Brereton dined at Government House with Sir Charles Tupper and the next day the party went to Portage LaPrairie where they stopped at Mr.

³⁴ "The Last Spike"

Garland's for another banquet. On the return journey to Winnipeg Captain Brereton asked Mrs. Brereton to drive with him if she did not drive with Sir Charles. However, she drove with Mr. Pratt '*contrary to my wish as people were talking of him*'. It appears that their relationship was deteriorating at this time.

When the Captain returned to Cross Lake from Winnipeg, it was reported to him that whiskey was coming freely into Cross Lake and that there was a quantity of it at Whitemouth - where the cooks in camp were drunk and that the men could not get their '*meals in consequence*.' When Captain Brereton went to Whitemouth,³⁵ where according to Schreiber who had wired him, lawlessness, drunkenness and larceny were going on, he found John McDonald had been cut with a razor behind the left ear and in the face by John Duffy, but would give no information. He spent some days in Whitemouth and was told in presence of his wife that he should '*take care of his own life*', at Whitemouth. He returned from Whitemouth at 7 P.M. on 5 January 1881.

He received notification from Schreiber that his pay was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,200 effective 1 July. He wrote to Schreiber regarding railway pass, handcuffs and log hut or shanty at Whitemouth. A letter was also sent to Minister of Justice on same subject.

One of his diaries contains a list of whiskey peddlers at Cross Lake and vicinity; a form for the appointment of constable; a form for the delivery of prisoners and a registry of marriages performed by Captain Brereton.

A 17 January 1880 notation, concerns a trip to Winnipeg where he arranged for son David to enter St. John's College; he also purchased appropriate clothing for Dave. Later he wrote of David travelling with H. H. Smith to Winnipeg enroute to St. James College. As was his custom during trips to Winnipeg, at this period of his life, the Captain stayed with Thomas Spence, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, at his St. Boniface home³⁶.

The means of transportation in the Captain's time were many and varied. The proximity of Cross Lake to Lake of the Woods led to the use of many types of water craft and all these are mentioned in his diaries - canoe, tub, four-oared gig, a bicycle boat, sail boats, yachts and 'The Kenora', a stream boat. There was of course, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the attendant handcar as well as the more primitive forms of locomotion: walking, dog teams and snowshoes. While he was still at Cross Lake, the Captain noted that he made a road through the deep snow on snowshoes so that an ox could haul wood.

³⁵ Whitemouth was a small town located on the C.P.R. between Winnipeg and Rat Portage.

³⁶ Most information has been found in Captain Brereton's diaries (Glenbow Museum, Calgary)

Following are samples of other diary entries of Captain Brereton:

- ◆ In an entry dated 8 March, 1880, the Captain writes that Lucius Seth Huntington, Member of Parliament for Sheffield, Quebec and J. H. E. Secretan, engineer, head of CPR survey parties on the prairies '*arrived at 7:30 o'clock P.M. for a pow-wow*'. A 12 March, 1880 entry shows that he sent memoranda to Collingwood Schreiber Esq. (government engineer-in-chief for the C.P.R. after 1880) relating to getting the trains to start from Cross Lake and the trains from the West to land passengers at Cross Lake.
- ◆ On 21 March 1880, a Divine Service was held at Rideout's Hotel, Cross Lake but the following Sunday, Easter prayers were said at the Brereton home, which was usually the case.
- ◆ The day following Easter, the men in the Western Division of 15 struck work for their back pay and the men in the Eastern Division were threatening to do likewise.
- ◆ In the 1880's Captain Brereton wrote about calling on Reverend O. Fortin, Rector of Holy Trinity Church and a member of the Council of St. John's College, Winnipeg, Col. W. Osborne Smith, Managing Director of Winnipeg Waterworks and James Isbester, a contractor from Port Arthur.
- ◆ The Captain was involved with numerous and diversified legal cases including those dealing with horse stealing, dog killing, theft of cut firewood, unlawfully pulling down and carrying away a stable and part of a dwelling house. However, the greatest number of cases by far dealt with the illegal possession of intoxicating liquor. Apparently the Captain himself was not above suspicion in this regard as at one point he was obliged to open his satchel to prove to Archibald McDonald '*that nothing of the kind was therein*'.
- ◆ One of his cases involved three women, Rosetta Gagnon, Eliza Adams and Mrs. Geraghty '*having illegal possession of intoxicating liquor*'. The ladies (Gagnon and Adams) were tried in Rat Portage. Adams absconded but Gagnon was fined \$150 and cost and was imprisoned in Winnipeg. In this connection, Captain Brereton was served with a summons to show cause why he convicted prisoners in Keewatin and sent them to be imprisoned in Winnipeg gaol. Upon appealing to the Minister of Justice he was advised to '*Take instructions from the Lt. Governor re Keewatin prisoners.*' The outcome of this appeal was to the effect that the Minister of Justice ruled there was '*no authority to send prisoners to Winnipeg gaol (jail), prisoners discharged.*'
- ◆ According to a dairy entry on 27 February, 1889, Captain Brereton received a letter from '*Hay, Member of Parliament*' stating that bad reports had been received to the effect that he had frequently been seen drunk, or very much the worse for liquor. The next day he was requested by letter to present himself at the office of W. C. Jennings, E.C., at Rat Portage, complete with Commission books, letters, etc. and also with him the men who acted as his constables on that occasion. Charges were preferred against him by John Sydney O'Brien, but later withdrawn.

- ◆ Other cases that the Captain noted in his diaries involved a defendant having plaintiff's canoe in his possession; a Patrick Murphy (identified as a visitor) who had his nose and right ear bit off by John Halpin. A Métis woman by the name of Eliza Cameron brought a charge of assault against Wm. Tail, who was arrested, fined \$20 including costs. Another notation referred to charges laid for a freight shed containing a quantity of intoxicating '*aqua*'. A warrant was issued; a search revealed two barrels of liquor, which were seized and analyzed. They were found to contain alcohol, oil of vitriol and water and destroyed in the presence of one of the doctors completing the analysis.
- ◆ Captain Brereton also performed marriage ceremonies including one joining Hugh Faloney to Widow Johanna Christien (an Icelander). The same day he destroyed two ten-gallon kegs of whiskey at Paddy's House. Apparently he took a sample of each and thought one was watered!
- ◆ As was his habit, Captain Brereton listed people with whom he corresponded, also his accounts payable and receivable. In his diary for 1888, he shows a receivable owing from District Paymaster, Army Pay Office, Halifax, Nova Scotia - One Pensioner at X Lake - Private James May No. 220 - Royal Canadian Rifles, Quarterly Pension: 3 pounds, 4 shillings and 8 pence. He also listed as 'Payables': a toboggan.
- ◆ His diaries were not limited to legal cases but also contained interesting information about family life.
- ◆ In one early April notation he mentioned that Mrs. Brereton, David and Ina had arrived at Canada Pacific Hotel in Winnipeg having traveled from Toronto. In July David accompanied him to Deception to try some cases.
- ◆ During the time period August to September 1880 the Captain made numerous references to son Dick posting letters to Mrs. Brereton. We can assume that Mrs. Brereton was in Winnipeg because he does mention in his diaries that Mrs. Brereton was away in Winnipeg and vicinity after the departure of their maid, Eliza Jane Bamforth. While she was away he wrote that son Dick and daughter Ina helped with the preparation of food and referring to himself as the '*bottle washer*.'
- ◆ There is also a notation in the diaries concerning the appointment of Captain Brereton as Postmaster at Cross Lake, 24 April 1890. However, the appointment was not without problems. S. MacKay, refused to allow him behind the counter to look after letters until H. N. Ruttan, Post Master and Justice of the Peace told him to interfere with either letters or property of the Post Office '*at his peril*'. The Captain remained in the post until the Post Office closed on 31 May 1898, due to the Canadian Pacific Railway refusing to stop for the mail at 'Brereton'.
- ◆ During this period of time the Captain also spoke of a Mr. Smallwood returning to Cross Lake. It appears that Smallwood was resident in the area, had dealings and traveled with the Captain. The author of this history has assumed that this Mr. Smallwood is the same person that later travelled with Mrs. Brereton in the United States when she applied for her divorce.

Smallwood and Ursula Brereton married and they eventually moved to Royal Leamington Spa, Britain.

Although he seldom mentioned the weather, he did note in his diary that the fall of 1880 was unusually cold and the winter brutal. In fact he reported that on 17 October 1880 a basin of water froze in his room as the temperature dropped to minus 30 degrees.

CAPTAIN AS MAGISTRATE OF RAT PORTAGE

Captain Brereton was also the first Magistrate in Rat Portage; a position he held until the settlement of the boundary dispute in 1884, when Rat Portage went to Ontario. At that time Captain Brereton, being a Conservative, resigned and Mr. Lyons was appointed by the then Liberal Government. Rat Portage was a wild place at that time, as described in Pierre Berton's book *"The Last Spike"*³⁷

"the one really permanent town along the half-constructed line and by far the largest was Rat Portage on Lake of the Woods. With true chamber of commerce fervor it called itself the Future Sarasota of America". A less subjective description was provided by a correspondent of the Winnipeg Times in the summer of 1880. "For some time now the railway works in the vicinity of Rat Portage have been besieged by a lot of scoundrels whose only avocation seems to be gambling and trading in illicit whiskey and the state of degradation was, if anything, intensified by the appearance, in the wake of these blacklegs, of a number of the demi-monde with whom these numerous desperadoes held high carnival at all hours of the day or night."

The Town of Rat Portage, in the words of another observer³⁸, seemed to have been '*laid out on designs made by a colony of muskrats.*' Shanties and tents were built or pitched wherever the owners fancied and without reference to streets or roadways. As a result, the streets were run between the houses as an afterthought so that there was nothing resembling a straight thoroughfare in town.

With a floating population sometimes bordering on three thousand, the community was headquarters for Section B. The expense of the administration was borne by the contractors, who built the jail and organized the police force. All fines, however, went to the government. Between April and November of 1880, six thousand dollars was collected in fines. The convictions - highway robbery, larceny, burglary, assault, selling illicit whiskey, and prostitution - give a fair picture of Rat Portage as a frontier town' Rat Portage was approximately 40 miles from Cross Lake.

³⁷ The Last Spike, by Pierre Berton was published in 1974 by The Canadian Publishers, McClelland and Stewart Limited.

³⁸ Quoted in 'The Last Spike'

Berton wrote: *'With both the contractors and government in the law business, a state of near anarchy prevailed. At one point the company constable, O'Keefe, seized four barrels of illicit liquor but instead of destroying it took it back to his rooms and proceeded to treat his many friends. He was hauled before the stipendiary magistrate who fined him for having intoxicating liquor in his possession. O'Keefe paid the fine and then as soon as the magistrate left the bench arrested him for having liquor in his possession, an act he was perfectly entitled to perform since he was himself a policeman. When he popped the protesting magistrate into jail, a new magistrate had to be appointed to act in his place. When that was done a hearing was held and the new magistrate fined the old magistrate one hundred dollars. In the end the local government remitted both fines.'*³⁹

"In 1880 Rat Portage was easily the roughest town in Canada; eight hundred gallons of illegal liquor poured into town every month, hidden in oatmeal and bean sacks or disguised as barrels of coal oil. So profitable was the business that there was a whiskey peddler for every thirty residents. Here on a smaller and more primitive scale was foreshadowed all the anarchy of a later prohibition period in the United States - the same gun-toting mobsters, corrupt officials, and harassed police. One bloody incident in the summer of 1880, involving two whiskey traders named Dan Harrington and Jim Mitchell, had all the elements of a western gun battle.

*Harrington and Mitchell had in 1878 worked on a steam drift for Joseph Whitehead but they soon abandoned that toil for the more lucrative trade. In the winter of 1879-80, a warrant was issued for their arrest at Cross Lake, but when the constable tried to serve it, the two beat him brutally and escaped to Rat Portage where the stipendiary magistrate, F.W. Bent was in their pay. The two men gave themselves up to Bent who fined them a token fifty dollars and then gave them a written discharge to prevent further interference from officials at Cross Lake.'*⁴⁰

Two articles regarding policing in the Rat Portage area, (in both Magistrate Brereton is identified) are included in the appendix - both are provided on-line by the Winnipeg Police Force.

DIVORCE OF JAMES AND URSULA

Although Cross Lake, Rat Portage and other small settlements must have been very primitive and rough, as mentioned earlier the Breretons made frequent trips to a very much more cultivated and genteel lifestyle in Winnipeg where they attended meeting and had dinners with various government officials including Sir Charles Tupper, Canadian Prime Minister. However, she must have found life in the "wilds" of Canada not to her liking for in April 1888; the Captain was advised by letter, from Yankton, Dakota⁴¹ that Mrs. Brereton had been granted a divorce. The

³⁹ "The Last Spike"

⁴⁰ "The Last Spike"

⁴¹ Ursula Caroline E. Brereton was granted a divorce on 08/09/1887 in Yankton, South Dakota. She identified her place of birth as Ireland. Source: South Dakota Historic Society (sdhistory.org.)

Captain received a letter from Mrs. Brereton on 18 July 1888 that she had married Lionel C. Smallwood, on Tuesday 2 June, 1888 at Holy Trinity Church, Jersey City, U. S. A., by Rev. S. Rice.

An 18 August 1897 diary entry noted: *'Wife deserted me, Brereton Point'*. The only other reference to Mrs. Brereton in the Captain's diaries is on February 14th at the time of her birthday. He wrote *'a friend speaks of having seen Mrs. Captain Brereton alias Smallwood in Calgary'* and there was a notation that she was *'a very fine woman.'*

Some jewelry that was sent to David and Margaret Brereton was lost in a fire at the ranch in Alberta; however, there is a set of 6 Brereton spoons (with the crest) dating from 1835 - at least one was made by David Pontifax. Grandma Smallwood gave the spoons to the author's father Albert (Bert) Brereton when he was stationed in Britain during WWII

The author also has a Brereton ring with a Queen Victoria setting which Great Grandmother (Brereton) Smallwood sent during the war. In her letter, Grandma Smallwood indicated that the ring was 300 years old (in 1940s).

DEATH OF URSULA BRERETON-SMALLWOOD

Ursula Brereton-Smallwood died in 1942 at the age of 101 years. Following is the obituary that was placed in the Leamington Spa newspaper at the time of her death.

"Centenarian Lady's Funeral"

The funeral of Mrs. Ursula C. E. Smallwood, of 2 Clarendon Crescent, - who, as reported in our last issue, died two days after completing her 101st year - took place on Tuesday. The Rev. Malcolm Parr (Vicar) conducted a choral service at Holy Trinity Church. The 23rd Psalm was chanted, and the hymns were "Jesu, Lover of my soul" and "Abide with me." The Nunc Dimittis was chanted as the coffin was borne from the church. Mr. W. Stanley Vann presided at the organ. The interment was in Mr. Lionel Smallwood's grave at Milverton Cemetery. The mourners who attended were: - Mrs. Glass (daughter), Mr. H. Willoughby Smallwood (nephew), Mrs. Kinsey (cousin), Mrs. Stewart, Mr. A. D. B. Scott, Mr. E. Jones, Nurse Dolan, and Mr. F. Kirby.

Among others present were Major Donald Lindsay, Miss Lindsay, Miss Ethel M. Bower, Mrs. Edward Tunbridge, Dr. Frank Clayton, Colonel G. Bandleur Robinson, Mrs. Court Fisher, Miss Edith Foll, Miss E. Harris, Mr. M. Hughes, Mrs. Nichols (representing Warwick and Leamington Conservation Association), Miss Connell, Mrs. Arthur Smallwood, Mrs. Wade, Mrs. Mountford, Miss Jenkinson, and Mrs. G. Vandeleur Robinson (representing Primrose League).

Following is a list of wreaths:-Her devoted and sorrowing daughter and grandchildren; Minnie and all at Romiley (Cheshire); Mr. and Mrs. Miles Smallwood and Mrs. H. Smallwood (Kenilworth); Dr. and Mrs. Holman (Northampton); Ross and Islagh (Northampton); four male friends - Mr. E. Jones, Mr. F. Kirby, Mr. D. Scott and Mr. L. Travis; Dr. and Mrs. Frank Clayton; Miss Beech; Mrs. Miles Atkinson; Mrs. E. Dipple; Miss Emily Ward; Mrs. Molesworth; Mrs. M. M. Fowler; Miss Batty; Mrs. Hughes; Miss West (Knowle); Miss Jenkinson; Miss Patridge; Nurse Dolman; Mrs. Edward Tunbridge and Miss Violet Haynes; Miss Kickins; Mr. and Mrs Stewart and family and Mrs. Frederick a'Court Fisher. The funeral arrangements were made by Messres. H. J. Dawson Ltd.

The Certified Copy of an Entry of Death certificate (Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953) provides the following

Registration District: Warwick and Leamington

11942 Death in the Sub-district of Leamington in the County of Warwick

Entry Number 412: Died on the 9th of January 1942 at 2 Clarendon Crescent Leamington U.K.

Name and Surname: Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Smallwood

Mrs. Ursula Caroline Elizabeth Brereton

Death certificate information

Sex: female: Age 101 years

Occupation: widow of Lionel Smallwood, a wine merchant

Cause of death: myocardial failure; arterio sclerosis, old age (certified by F. Clayton MF

Signature, description of residence of informant: E. Jones⁴², an inmate at 2 Clarendon Crescent, Leamington, England

Registered: 12 January 1942

Copy of Registration by: R. Wilson, on 18-8-93

DEATH OF ROBINA BRERETON-GLASS

Robina Glass: died in 1951 at the age of 84. She had one daughter Elizabeth (Betty) Glass who died while in her early thirties.

⁴² Mr. E. Jones was one of the boarders who lived with Ursula and Robina Glass (her daughter). During the Second World War the house was opened for boarders and the yards turned into gardens in order for the family to maintain the house and to have fresh produce.

CROSS LAKE HOMESTEAD APPLICATION

The Captain lived at Cross Lake, in a building he referred to as 'Lake View Lodge', for 25 years before he applied for ownership by way of an *Application For A Homestead Entry By An Agent*, filed in 1907 with the Dominion Lands Office, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The affidavit, provided by an Agent in support of Brereton's Claim, states that Brereton was a person who had "bona fide settled and made improvements upon land in advance of survey". It shows that John B. McLaren did:

'solemnly swear that James Westropp Brereton for whom I am acting herein is over eighteen years of age; that to the best of my knowledge and belief the land in respect of which application is made is of the call open for homestead entry; that the said James Westropp Brereton became resident upon and began to cultivate the said land, about 25 years ago, before the same was surveyed, that he had resided upon and cultivated the said land in conformity with the requirements of the homestead provisions of the Dominion Lands law since, that there is no other person resident, or claiming, or having improvements upon it, and that this application is made for his exclusive use and benefit, with the intention of his residing upon and cultivating the said land, and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever and that he has not heretofore obtained an entry for a homestead on Dominion Lands.

Subscribed and sworn to, this 20th day of April 1907'

On his application, Captain Brereton indicated that he was a Retired Stipendiary Magistrate, living in Kenora, Ontario, was 77 years of age, Irish born - English descent, from Dublin, Ireland. The land in question was said to be in section 17, township 10, range 17, east of the principal meridian and to be bound on the north by the shore of Cross Lake and on the south by the road allowance between sections 8 and 17. The land claim of Captain Brereton's was approved and in fact, when the author visited the land titles office in Winnipeg the land was still shown to be in his name although it is now within the "Whiteshell Provincial Park".

The land transfer or title, held in the National Archives, in Ottawa shows that James Westropp Brereton of Kenora, in the Province of Ontario, in Our Dominion of Canada received the land on May 23, 1907. This document contains the following:

..."Now Know Ye, that by these Presents We do grant, convey and assure, unto the said James Westropp Brereton, his heirs and assigns forever, all those Parcels or Tracts of Land, situate, lying and being in the Tenth Township in the Seventeenth Range East of the principal Meridian in the province of Manitoba. Firstly all those portions of the South half of Section Seventeen of the said Township which lie to the South of Cross Lake, as shown upon a map or plan of Survey of said Section Seventeen signed by Edmund Seager,

Dominion Land Surveyor on the 16th day of November A.D 1906, approved and confirmed at Ottawa on the 6th day of May “

The Deed to the property is recorded as: in the Department of the Interior, the 23 May 1907, (Liber 257 Folio 191) by the Registrar of Dominion Lands Patents: To have and to hold the said parcels or tracts of Land unto the said James Westropp Brereton his heirs and assigns forever.....Given under the Great Seal of Canada: Witness Charles Jerome Jones, Esquire a Companion of Our Imperial Service Order. (Governor General of Canada)

When Faye Brereton-Goodwin and her husband Bob Goodwin visited the Brereton homestead in the 1980's (about one hundred years after her great-grandparents arrived) there were no visible signs of buildings that were constructed during the life of Captain Brereton. In fact the lake and surrounding area appears pristine, uninhabited and difficult to access.

There is also the very beautiful lake 'Brereton Lake' within the Whiteshell Provincial Park (near the Canadian Pacific Rail line. It was named in 1882 for the Captain. There is a campsite on the lake and several private summer cottages/homes.

Captain Brereton appears to have led a relatively busy life. He speaks in his diaries about three houses at Cross Lake, which he kept in good repair and rented for the summers. His own home, Lake View Lodge was also rented on occasion. Aside from his '*carpentering, painting, paperhanging and cleaning*', he prepared and gathered firewood, mended and laundered his clothes, gardened and

even planted mignonette and nasturtiums. He spoke of drawing water from the lake to water the garden and in winter shoveling snow and chopping a hole in the ice in order to get water from the lake. He made his own bread, collected furs and feathers from the Indians to send to the Hudson Bay Company and at times, even made new feather pillows. It appears Captain Brereton also doctored to the Indians, visiting them at their wigwams to take them medicine. He also held Divine Service '*morning and evening*' on Sunday. In spite of all this activity he had time for recreation, reading, maintaining a great correspondence with many friends, shooting, fishing, boating and visiting with friends both at home and away. He also flew his flag at half-mast when persons of note died.

Captain Brereton remained in Canada, living at Cross Lake for some time, travelling regularly to Winnipeg to see friends and carry out business - and also to Rat Portage (now Kenora, Ontario). A notice appearing in Henderson's Gazetteer and Directory of Manitoba and the Northwest, for 1889, listed the Captain as the sole inhabitant of Cross Lake.

Around this time he also noted that his son David left to work as a chainman on the rail survey crew and that Harry and Dick were located somewhere in the area and visited the Captain on a regular basis.

He acquired property in Rat Portage and lived there from sometime in the 1890's. There were 6 properties, located on the lake at '*Brereton Point*'

RAT PORTAGE - KENORA PROPERTIES

- # 1 **Drummond Cottage**; 4 Rooms - 2 Story - 10 x 22 Feet
 - # 2 **Boscobal Cottage**; 5 rooms - 2 story- 16 x 32 Feet
 - # 3 **Maude Cottage**; 6 Rooms + Hall, 1 storey: 28 x 32 Feet
 - # 4 Lot 5, Parcel 1440 originally 187 - Location 155 Coney Island.
 - # 5 **Pioneer House** comprised of 6 Rooms - 22 x 30 Feet
 - # 6 **The Hermitage**; 3 Rooms and Stone House - 14 x 30
- A **Stone House** built outside kitchen door of Hermitage
Boathouse, Wharf and Arbour

In his 1903 diary he listed the name of his insurance company and all the policies related to the cottages and other property he owned; also wrote about shingling the boathouse

The Captain often noted attending luncheons, writing and receiving letters and also many visitors. In the late 1880's when he was living mainly at Brereton Point he commented on the weather, the lake, walks or trips in his boat '*The Francis*' into town (Rat Portage). While in town he often stayed at

the Russell Hotel picking up his cleaning, supplies etc - and visiting his many friends. From his expenditures that are noted in all of his diaries it appears that he had sufficient income to enjoy his life. His companions in later life were a dog named Nell and a black cat called '*Nigger*'.

CORRESPONDENCE NOTED IN 1890-91

In his Diaries for 1890 and 1891 he listed some of the people he regularly contacted, including his son, J. W. H. W. (Harry) Brereton, sister Maude Brereton and Van Horne. He also corresponded with people living in the Provinces of Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia as well as various States in the USA, Ireland, Scotland and England.

At this time the Captain appears to not venture far from Winnipeg and Rat Portage; however, he remained aware of events outside his world via contact with friends and relatives in many parts of Canada and the British Isles. There are few notes concerning his son Dick, however he did

mention Dick having been home in the entry for 1 January 1892 and we know that the Captain's sons Harry and (Richard) Dick Brereton lived in the vicinity of the Captain's homestead, at least in the 1880's for the Captain mentioned that on 24 March 1888, 'Darling *Harry*' arrived from Rat Portage and spent Christmas with him. Harry visited him again on 14 January 1889, when they played draughts, chess and backgammon. At that time it appears Harry was living in Whitemouth (gateway to the present Whiteshell Provincial Park). The Captain addressed correspondence to Harry as c/o W. W. McLeod, Postmaster of Whitemouth. The Captain forwarded correspondence to also sent letters to J. W. H. (Harry) Brereton, C.P.R. shops, Winnipeg. Harry celebrated his 21st birthday on 21 February 1889. Harry was visiting again in January, 1890 and noted that he and Harry spent 'lovely days' together, watching an eclipse, going for walks, clearing brush, playing cards etc.

It appeared that he was also in regular contact with other members of his family. On February 1, 1889 the Captain received a letter from his brother, Jos. Brereton and throughout his diaries he commented on his ongoing correspondence with his sister, Maude Brereton. He also appears to have received a number of newspapers including British ones - he had a clipping about a boat race between Cambridge and Oxford included in one diary. During the years 1880 to 1910 the Captain heard from son David on a regular basis, receiving gifts, newspapers etc.

MARRIAGE TO HANNAH LUCAS

During this period Captain Brereton married once again; following quite a lengthy courtship and many letters - a least two a week, and '*much difficulty in mailing them*'. His lady was Hannah Francis Lucas, (who was presumably a widow as she had a son Edward). It appears that Hannah was a resident of the area since the Captain noted, in his 1888 diary, having had tea for the first time with Mrs. Lucas in Rat Portage. Hannah and the Captain were married 7 September 1892, and the marriage lasted until this Mrs. Brereton left for England on 13 September 1902 (Hannah died 25 October 1907).

On 1 September 1902 Mrs. H. F. (Hannah) Brereton signed Deed baring Dower on any property in the presence of Edward Lucas and William Boston Towers, Barrister of this Town (Rat Portage). The property noted, was Parcel 187, Location 155 P, Coney Island. Other property was also released of Dower and Registree. There is a record dated, 18 October 1895, referencing Mrs. Lucas-Brereton:

Herbert WILLIAMS, 34, H.B. CO (possibly Hudson's Bay Company) clerk, Devon England, Rat Portage, s/o Joseph & Elizabeth, married Agnes Sarah LUCAS, 25, Bristol England, Rat Portage, d/o Hannah & Frances, witness: Hannah F. BRERETON & James M. KING, 12 Aug 1895 at Rat Portage

LAST DECADE - 1900 TO 1910

In 1898 to 1901 he mentioned that he was 'all alone' and the tone of his diary shows him to appear a little depressed. He did, however, visit Winnipeg regularly staying at the Clarendon Hotel - visited with Major and Mrs. Stout. His life as reported in his diaries at the turn of the century (1900-1903) as was his habit, included a lot of correspondence, including Wm. Appleyard, Secretary, National Children's Hospital, the Harcourts in Dublin and many notations about sister Maude. In fact, Maude visited the Captain on 9 August 9 1900, apparently staying in Winnipeg. On 7 July 7 1903, he "*Packed up silver tea set in a box to send by express to Maude Brereton, in care of J. Owen, Bracebridge, Ontario.*"

It appears he made regular travels to Winnipeg - on Friday 11 December 1902, noting that he had returned from Winnipeg - bringing with him \$209.00, studs for cuffs and collar and new glasses. In his diary there is a newspaper clipping '*Capt. Brereton left yesterday for Rat Portage having been on a visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McLaren, Maplehurst, Mayfair Avenue (Winnipeg)*'. Mr. McLaren was Captain Brereton's lawyer. On Saturday he noted sending and receiving a letter from Lillie - Box 315. Again on February 25, 1903 he noted arriving in Winnipeg and going to the Clarendon Hotel...again his visit was noted in the Winnipeg Free Press '*Captain Brereton, of Rat Portage is in the city for a few days staying at the Clarendon*' - again he visited the McLaren's. His notation for Saturday, 29 February 1903, was '*J. B. McLaren, Barrister, Winnipeg made my last Will and Testament for me. The Will, which was witnessed by him and his nephew Wm. McLaren, was left with the lawyer to keep for the Captain.*'

By May 1, 1903 he was mentioning his failing health. The Doctor instructed him to move into town (Rat Portage / Kenora from Brereton Point and to hire someone to cook for him. Richard Ralph Westropp Brereton celebrated his 37th Birthday on 14 September 1903. He also mentioned sending his boating photograph to son David that year - David (Leslie) was 38 on 3 August, 1903.

He continued to row to town, to follow British horse racing events and to read a great deal, listing books he had read during the year.

On his 80th birthday, 28 January 1910, he had been a resident of St. Joseph's Hospital, Kenora for about 6 years. He regularly sent and received telegrams from son Dave during his time in St. Joseph's. At Christmas, 1910, he listed all the presents he received, including ones from Mrs. R. F. Brereton, Honorable Verbeker, J. McLaren, and Elfrick etc

The following is part of an excerpt in his diary: '*Thank God I am 80 years old today and spent a most enjoyable time of it. My old and valued friend Fred Cardiff (sic) was the first to appear with a lovely cake with J.W.B, aged 80 years on the top in print letters*'. The Captain goes on to list people who visited and some of the gifts. Visitors included Father O'Dwyer with whom he played cribbage, Sister Geoffrey is also mentioned.

The following notice appeared in the newspaper:

“PASSED THE FOUR SCORE MARK”

Capt. Brereton is a very proud man today having attained his 80th birthday. He was the first magistrate in Rat Portage, being appointed Dominion Commissioner of Police in 1878 by the then Governor-General, Marquis of Lorne. Capt. Brereton's original district covered from Winnipeg to Eagle River but this was subsequently reduced to the country between here and Winnipeg and a Mr. Bent appointed to the eastern division. Bent left suddenly and a Mr. McCabe was appointed. Malcolm McKenzie, a policeman brought serious charges against Mr. McCabe, which were tried before Capt. Brereton. He however, did not like to adjudicate upon a case against a brother magistrate and sent the minute of the investigation to Sir Charles Tupper the then minister of railways and canals. McCabe was dismissed and Capt. Brereton instructed to assume his duties.

Subsequently Mayor Oliver took a petition from the citizens of Rat Portage to have Capt. Brereton appointed magistrate for the town, which was granted, and which position he held until the boundary question was settled in the fall of 1881, on which occasion Rat Portage went into the Province of Ontario. Capt. Brereton being a Conservative, resigned and Mr. Lyons was appointed by the then Liberal government. Mr. Lyons died some time afterwards and Mr. James Robinson was appointed. He was succeeded by Mr. A. More and about a year ago Mr. A. McLennan, the present magistrate, was appointed.”

On September 6, 1883, at dinner in his honour, the citizens of Rat Portage, presented the Captain with a gold-headed cane, inscribed "Presented to Capt. James Westropp Brereton by the citizens of Rat Portage as a token of esteem, September 6th, 1883.

“The Captain died in St. Joseph's Hospital, in 1911 at the age of 81. He had been a member of the Golden Chapter No. 90 G. R. C. and the Pequonga Lodge A.F. & A.M. No 22 G.R.M. According to the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, James Westropp Brereton, at age 48 years (at the time a Magistrate at Rat Portage) was initiated in the Pequonga Lodge 22, Manitoba 2 March 1883. His membership was passed to the Fellowcraft degree on 2 April 1883, and raised to a Master Mason on 2 May 1883 (certificate number 477). When Rat Portage/Kenora became part of Ontario on 6 April 1887 Pequonga Lodge was suspended and transferred to the Grand Lodge of Canada to become Pequonga Lodge No. 414, Province of Ontario.