

Notes about Captain James Allen Pettes and Relatives, collected by J. G. McHone as of 4 March 2010:

On Feb. 24, 2010 our carpenter found a hand-written label on felt paper beneath old lap siding on the front of our cape-cod style house at 9 Dexters Lane, in North Head. The label reads "Capt. Jas. Pettes, Grand Manan" and it is apparently a shipping label for building materials sent to our location. We have found a 3 cent American coin dated 1865 between floorboards, so it is possible that our house was built around then, corresponding to the time that James A. Pettes became an inn keeper of the Marble Ridge House not far up the hill. In fact, our old deed for the house gives it a street location on Marble Ridge Road, which is now Dexters Lane. So, I am interested learning more about Capt. Pettes, hopefully to establish if he actually built and lived in our house, and when.

From the 1901 census:

Pettes, James A., male, husband, married, birthday May 15, 1836, age 69, country of birth U.S., year immigrated 1841, year naturalized 1880, racial origin English, nationality Canadian, religion C of E, occupation hotel keeper
-----, Mary A., female, wife, married, birthday July 8, 1836, age 69, country of origin U.S., year immigrated 1841, year naturalized ---- [not naturalized], racial origin English, nationality American, religion C of E

1891 census: no information

1881 census:

Pettes, James, Male, age 45, born US, religion Church of England, Married, occupation Hotel Keeper
-----, Mary, Female, age 45 born US religion C of E origin English Married

1871 census:

Pettes, James, age 37, member Church of England, race English, occupation Trader
-----, Mary, age 35, member Church of England, race English

1861 census

Pettes, James A, age 25, born Boston, Mass., occupation Merchant
-----, Mary A., Wife, age 26, born Calais, Maine, occupation Spinster

1851 census -- no Pettes listed [but we believe they were here].

Recorded at the North Head Anglican Church cemetery:

James B. Pettes, born in Hartford, Connecticut 1791 - died 8 Feb 1866, age 75 years, 1 month
Catherine, his wife - died 19 May 1881, age 68 years, 6 months
James Allen Pettes - died 10 Aug 1910, age 75 years
Mary A. Pettes, his wife - died 26 Aug 1919, age 84 years

From the Grand Manan Genealogies website
<http://kencarrico.tripod.com/index.htm>:

"Mary Ann Burnham [daughter of Abraham Burnham] was born July 08, 1836 in USA, and died Unknown. She married James Allen Pettes November 29, 1858. He was born May 15, 1836 in USA, and died Unknown." [but see above for death dates]

More about Mary Ann Burnham:

Fact 1: 1841, Immigrated to Canada

More about James Allen Pettes:

Fact 1: 1841, Immigrated to Canada

Fact 2: Inn keeper

Child of Mary Burnham and James Pettes is:

Daughter Pettes, b. November 10, 1883; d. Unknown; an adopted child.

More about Abraham Burnham, Mary's father:

Abraham Burnham was born 1807 in New Hampshire, USA, and died May 21, 1881 in Grand Manan N.B. He married Catherine C. Belmore August 1832 in Calais, Maine. She was born 1816 in St. Andrews, N.B., and died February 16, 1900 in Grand Manan, N B. Abraham immigrated to Canada in 1840.

I see no record of the James A. Pettes marriage to Mary Burnham on Grand Manan in the 1850s, although Mary's large family lived on Grand Manan after they immigrated to Canada from Calais, Maine in 1840 or 1841. Perhaps they were married in Maine, as they were both US citizens.

From county shipping records, Mary Pettes is listed as a co-owner of the "Anglo-American," a 93 ton sloop built in Charlotte County, NB in 1866. It was wrecked in 1871.

James A. Pettes testified under oath for a U.S. Fisheries Commission in 1877 that he was 41 years old, lived in North Head, was born in Boston, and moved with his parents to Grand Manan when he was 7 years old (i.e. around 1843). Also that he had been a hotel keeper for "10 or 15 years" and was still a U.S. citizen, not naturalized, and that he had run a packet boat between Grand Manan and Eastport from 1871 to 1875. In the winter he fished for herring, and also bought/sold local fish, carrying them to Eastport and other places. The commission questioned him about the local fishing industry, about which he knew a lot, and they badgered him about estimates of total annual values (apparently they suspected some cheating was going on).

From Jim Leslie, owner/operator of the Marathon Inn (conversation in 2010):

His wife Mary kept their inn called "Marble Ridge House" [near the top of Marble Ridge Road, now Dexters Lane] when James was away. This hotel was built in the 1860s, and legend has it that Capt. Pettes won it in a poker game. He moved this building in 1898 to become the "annex" of the Marathon Inn, which has been a hotel since 1871. The Marathon Inn was named after Byron's poem about

Isles of Greece. Captain Pettes must have owned both inns. His house at Pettes Cove was also moved to the Marathon in 1898, where it is now called the "Captain's Quarters." [I suspect this was formerly his father and mother's house]. During these moves three local men were supposedly killed (their names are recorded at the Inn), but the actual circumstances are not known and oddly, no news reports have been found about it. [It doesn't appear that the Pettes family lived in the Marble Ridge Hotel, but they probably lived nearby (our house)].

Some travelers described a visit to Grand Manan on Oct. 22, 1881 in the Boston Evening Transcript, in which they arrived at the Marble Ridge House around midnight (walking from their landing at Whale Cove) but had no trouble rousing Captain Pettes to let them in and to provide a meal. I don't know if he was also running what is now the Marathon Inn at that time (maybe not). In a St. Andrews Bay Pilot news article dated Aug. 22, 1878 Capt. Pettes and his wife were complimented about their good hotel service.

A note from Karen Dunham:

"The son James was b. about 1835. d. 10 Aug 1910. Married Mary Burnham 29 Nov 1858. He was a hotel keeper, a ship owner, owner of one of the first livery stables. His family lived at Camerons Cove, just south of Swallowtail." I take this to be the present Pettes Cove, and presumably his mother Catherine lived there his father died in 1866.

In 1884, Capt. Pettes and John Anson Ingersoll sailed to New York and bought the "Flushing" for use as the first steamboat packet or ferry for Grand Manan. It served from 1884 to 1900.

More about the Marble Ridge Hotel:

Date May 2 1889
County Charlotte
Place Saint Stephen
Newspaper Saint Croix Courier

Charles H. LITTLE who died at the Bay Ridge, New York on 6th March, was a native of Grand Manan (Charlotte Co.) who went abroad early in life and accumulated a considerable property. He came back to Grand Manan some years ago, purchased some land and built the house known as Marble Ridge Hotel of which James A. PETTES is the proprietor.