

## **Moments in Our History**

**(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 – 1975)**

### **The First Meeting House (Part 1)**

In the summer of 1775, a company of the Royal Artillery sailed through the Narrows to reinforce the garrison. Aboard was a 38 year old sergeant named John Jones, a serious-minded Christian with a mission.

Jones had risen through the ranks of gunner, bombardier and corporal, and by his exemplary conduct since his conversion, stood high in the esteem of his commanding officers. He was entrusted with the posts of sergeant-major, quartermaster, pay-master and clerk of his company. These duties entitled him to a separate room in the barracks, which he shared with a pious sergeant and his family. Twice a day, Jones conducted family prayers in his room and on Sunday nights, a more public service when many people attended, both from the garrison and the town of St. John's. During the summer, Jones relates, "the Lord was pleased to work upon the mind of the present Gaoler and three Soldiers, one of the Infantry and two of the Artillery, who made six in number." They constituted themselves a religious society, drawing up articles for their own government, and thus our congregation had its beginning.