

## **Moments in Our History**

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

John Jones and Bishop O'Donel (Part 2)

The Reverend Mr. Price (Langman's successor) maintained that Jones could not preach without a license from the Bishop of London and once again, John Jones appeared before the magistrate to argue his case. In their address to Governor Campbell later that year, the Dissenting Church lauded "the wise, mild and humane power whereby we have possessed ... the greatest of all privileges, the free liberty of conscience in the use of our Religion."

On Sunday, 17 April 1785, a "Riot" took place at the Meeting House and in their complaint to His Majesty's justices of the peace (The Worshipful Nicholas Gill, Lewis Coke and George Williams) the congregation related that at 6 o'clock as they were met for worship "a number of seemingly disorderly men, some women and children, several whereof assaulted the Building with stones on its roof, sides, ends and even the windows, after the shutters were closed." The congregation was alarmed (a sergeant of the garrison being struck by a rock as he entered the church) and sent Mr. James Dougherty to the home of John Livingstone "who very humanely gave himself the trouble to leave his house and disperse the mob." The congregation appealed for protection.

During the investigation, the accusation was made by Mr. Coke that "Mr. Jones preached much against the Roman Catholics which greatly exasperated that set of people and which ought not be allowed of." When pressed, the magistrate stated that his source of information was the Reverend Mr. Price.