

Moments in Our History

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

John Jones and Bishop O'Donel (Part 6)

John Jones was well pleased to be “unexpectedly favoured with your long letter” and in his acknowledgment, dated 11 May 1785, he expresses himself most happy “to find we agree to what is most effectual to promote Religious Morals, the public peace, and welfare of Society in general, to which good end and according to the expressed desire on your part, I again hereby assure you, that no effort of mine shall in any wise be wanting.”

No further correspondence passed between the two men as far as we are aware. Certain it is, however, that the “tranquility and good will towards each other” prevailed. The record shows that 2,000 people, nearly the whole population of St. John's, turned out in a severe snow storm to witness the funeral procession of John Jones on 3 March 1800. Prominent members of the Meeting House were among the merchants of St. John's who petitioned the Government to grant the aging Bishop O'Donel a pension and who honoured him with a public reception and presentation when he left the Island in 1807.