

## **Moments in Our History**

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

#### **A Sufficiency of Land (Part 2)**

The address goes on to say that their requirements call for a church “constructed for galleries” 42 feet long and 32 feet wide. In addition, a Vestry would be needed for “experimental meetings upon the week” and “for keeping a School which Mr. Jones now does, and which is of the utmost consequence to the rising generation, there being no school in the place but what is kept by Roman (Catholic) tutors.” In a later appeal, it is stated that Mr. Jones had the care of 30 pupils. The cost of such a Meeting House would be between £ 600 and £ 700.

The high figure, they realized, would alarm their friends in England, so the address goes on to list the reasons. The petitioners point out that “although this country is not inhabited in the interior parts, nor much of the Water Side” most of it was reserved for the fishery. Land was scarce and very expensive. However, “a sufficiency of land” for the Meeting House -and a burial ground i.e. Two Lots, could be purchased from Andrew Barnes, a planter, for the sum of £100. The site was 100 feet above the Upper Path (Duckworth Street) “central to the Town, a desirable circumstance where the inhabitants have to make their way through snow more than knee-high several months of the year.” Another cost factor would be the building of a wall 10 to 12 feet high the whole length of the building “owing to the declivity of the said ground.” This would cost at least £60 because of “the distance of the stones, the manner of conveying them, namely upon men’s backs, with the scarcity of Lime, and the great price of Masons’ wages (5 to 6 shillings per diem).”