

LEVI  
~~LEVI~~ VII, Newfoundland

Simon LEVI, Fogo, Nfld. 1788

| ?

SIMON LEVI,   
 b. c. 1792   
 d. at Boston 26 November 1877 ~~aged 85~~.   
 m.   
 Harbour Grace Nfld., 1823-7   
 Carbonear Nfld.; 1828-   
 fishing owner.

Simon Benjamin   
 b. Dec. 1835.   
 d. 14 Feb 1840, Carbonear   
 DNM   
 TOQUE.   
 ~~TOQUE~~

Sister Son Son Son Son Phillip T[oque]   
 b. 1929   
 d. 9 June 1965, Boston Woodlawn Chelsea   
 m. 22 Sept 1955, Boston   
 Ana Kells of Boston Albany   
 b.   
 d.   
 m. George Parke

## LEVY VII - NOTES

(1) *Simon Levi referred to in the Slade Ledger as being in Fogo, Newfoundland in October 1788 and October, 1789: "Simon Levi File", Maritime History Archive, Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland.*

(2) Simon Levi, probably a son of the Simon Levi in Note (1), was recorded as living at Harbour Grace from 1823 to 1827 and at Carbonear from about 1828 to about 1850: "Simon Levi File", *loc. cit.* In 1828 he was referred to in a court case as "the son-in-law of the present wife" of his partner Phillip Tocque: *ibid.*

(3) Simon Levi died at Boston, 26 November, 1877, age 85: *St. John's Gazette*, 1 January, 1878: "Simon Levi File", *loc. cit.*

(4) According to *The Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador*, citing a work by Philip Tocque, 1878, the merchants named Levi are traditionally considered to have been Jewish. See "Hebrew Congregation," *Encyclopedia*, pp. 901-902.

(5) Information concerning Phillip T. Levi and Benjamin Levi is from G. Crosbie, *Names in Newfoundland Newspapers*, Vols. 1-5. According to the *St. John's Gazette*, 4 July, 1965, "Phillip T. Levi, fifth son of Simon Levi of Boston, for many years a resident of Carbonear, died on the 9th at Woodlawn, Chelsea, home of his brother-in-law, George Rorke, age 36."

**SHELDON J. GODFREY, M.A., LL.B.**  
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

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March 29th, 1988.

Ms. Roberta Thomas, Research  
Assistant  
Maritime History Archive  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1C 5S7

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Thank you for your letter of March 23, 1988. I am enclosing my cheque in the amount of \$20.00 with thanks.

Your information about Simon Levi was most interesting. Would it be possible to get further details of any of the items listed in the information you forwarded to me? There are two in particular. The reference to the North Circuit Court, 1828 11 14 suggested that Levi, Simon was a son-in-law to Philip Tocque's present wife. Perhaps the actual documents could help explain that relationship. The other reference is in Simon's obituary in the Gazette 1878 01 01. I would appreciate getting a copy of that article.

In your note about Rorke, you referred to James Rorke as settling in Carbonear in 1824 and John and Mary Rorke moved to Carbonear in 1838. Is there any indication of their relationship?

Finally, I note in your letter that you suggest from the evidence you have it would seem to be fairly certain that Simon Solomon emigrated from South Devon. As I have not seen any of the evidence in the material sent to me, I would appreciate your forwarding any other information available.

Yours very truly,

SJG/lk  
Encl.

Sheldon J. Godfrey.



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*Maritime History Archive*

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March 23, 1988

Mr. Sheldon Godfrey  
49 Front Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5E 1B3

Dear Mr. Godfrey:

Thank you for your letter of March 9 and March 4.

From the evidence we have it would seem fairly certain that Simon Solomon emigrated from South Devon, though we do not have documentation which proves this to be the case.

I am enclosing information from the Simon Levi file. The family was never in St. John's, according to our records. We do not know the relationship, if any, between the Simon Levi at Fogo, and the Carbonear family. Further information may be given in Simon's obituary in the Gazette of 1877.

I realize you did not really ask for all this information, thus I will charge for a part-only. To this effect please find our invoice for \$20.00, one hours research.

Yours sincerely,

*Roberta Thomas*

Roberta Thomas  
Research Assistant  
MARITIME HISTORY ARCHIVE

RT/pm

Encls.

From G. Crosbie, NAMES IN NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSPAPERS, Vols. 1-5

Levi, Philip T. Formerly of Carbonear married Miss Ana Kells of Albany, N.Y. at Boston on 22 September 1955 at Church of the Advent by Bishop Southgate.

Levi, Philip T. 5th son of Simon of Boston, many years resident of Carbonear, died on the 9th at Woodlawn, Chelsea, home of his brother-in-law, George Rorke, age 36, ref. Gazette, July 4, 1965.

Levi, Benjamin, son of Simon died age 4 yr. 2 mo. February 14, 1840.

From: History of the Rorke fish and coal company,  
James Hornell, M.H.G. Student Paper

James Rorke came to Carbonear from Athlone in Ireland, June 9, 1824. From a modest start in the small settlement of Adams Cove, John and wife Mary moved to Carbonear in 1838. The firm expanded rapidly as Rorke concentrated his business on the prospering Labrador fishery, eventually owning a fleet of close to 200 vessels.

ster and cod fisheries, with supplies being obtained from Sandy Cove and later St. George's *qqv*. With the development of roads and the railway and the creation, by the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, of lumber camps in western and central Newfoundland, settlement in Rattling Brook moved inland so that agricultural endeavours could be pursued. Root-crop farming was later encouraged by the Commission of Government in the 1930s and by the demands of World War II, particularly in the Stephenville area, which created a growing market for vegetables. In the 1950s Wonders considered Heatherton, along with Cartyville *qv* and Robinsons, to be the most successful of the farming communities in what was known as the "Barachois" district.

Just as the growth of woods camps owned by the A.N.D. Company at Botwood, Bishop's Falls, Grand Falls and Buchans created a market for farm products in the early 1900s, so too the development of a woods-camp system by Bowaters based in Corner Brook *qv* created employment opportunities in the Stephenville-Corner Brook area. This changed the main source of employment from the combination of fishing and farming to farming and logging; eventually the majority of the settlement's labour force was employed outside the community. In 1978 it was reported in the *Rounder* (July 1978, p. 9) that the majority of the settlement's labour force of eighty-four people (out of a total population of 380) worked outside the community in forestry (mainly lumbering), the service industry and transportation. The settlement also reported fifteen inshore fishermen who operated small inshore boats. Heatherton's catch was composed mainly of lobster. During the same period, a sawmilling operation produced 3 048 m (10,000 ft) of laths and one pulpwood operation produced 5,000 cords of wood. Agriculture involved four people producing mainly root crops and hay (with some livestock, mainly cattle and sheep) on 121 ha (300 acres) of cultivated land.

In 1982 Heatherton students attended St. Joseph's Primary School and St. Jude Central High School at St. Finton's. A Roman Catholic church erected by the early 1900s was replaced in 1973 by a new structure which was built largely through community effort (Newfoundland Historical Society: Heatherton). The settlement also had a United Church church. The settlement of Heatherton reached a population of 244 by 1951 and 272 by 1961. Since 1966 its population has stayed at about 300. Michael Brosnan (1948), A.K. Snelgrove (1953), W.C. Wonders (1951), *Census* (1891-1981), Newfoundland Historical Society (Heatherton). Map K. JEMP

**HEBREW CONGREGATION.** Between 1880 and 1910 two million of East Europe's five million Jews immigrated to North America to escape the wave of pogroms that followed the assassination of Czar Alexander II. Most of the new immigrants settled in New York City's East Side, attracted to the neighbourhood by its strong Yiddish flavour and prospering Jewish businesses. Peddling, and labour in one of the East Side's numerous garment factories were the predominant means of livelihood. While these two occupations were not lucrative, they did allow the immigrant to settle among relatives, to get by

with little English, and observe the Sabbath and holy days with minimal disturbance.

By the late 1880s the continuing influx of immigrants into New York led to a worsening of wages and living conditions and many who had initially settled in the city were forced to search out other locales. One such temporary New York resident, Israel Perlin *qv*, originally from Tinkovich, Minsk, Russia, was the first to discover Newfoundland as a possible place to set up a permanent business. In 1891 Perlin left New York for Newfoundland and began to sell dry goods in the isolated communities of Placentia and Fortune Bays. Soon after, Israel was joined by his brother Frank. In 1893, following the St. John's fire of 1892, the two Perlins opened a wholesale and retail store on Water Street, I.F. Perlin & Co., and began to bring out relatives and family acquaintances from Poland to work for them as pedlars in the outports. By 1905 Israel, "father of the peddlers," had begun to concentrate entirely on wholesaling clothing and related merchandise to his pedlar network. In the same year he also began to manufacture his own clothing. By 1913 some of the more successful of Perlin's pedlars (in particular Isidor Wilanski, of Vilna, Poland; Sam and Simon Levitz of Krivitz, Poland; and Abraham Cohen also of Vilna, Poland) had set up their own businesses on Water Street in competition with the Perlins. These businessmen also began to bring over their relatives and countrymen and otherwise replicated the Perlins' pedlar network.

Many Jewish pedlars began work immediately on arrival and knew little English. The pedlars of this period typically spent eleven months of the year in the outports, returning to St. John's only to observe the High Holidays. Itinerant traders were always welcome in isolated outports and Jewish pedlars were no exception. Travel was by foot, or occasionally by coastal steamer. Pedlars typically walked up to 32 km (20 mi) in a day with packs on their backs weighing 18 to 20 kg (40 to 45 lb). The goods carried included small items of jewelry and haberdashery, stationery, pencils and other small articles. When the goods were sold more were ordered from I.F. Perlin or a competing company. To save time these new goods were shipped out by coastal steamer.

The profits to be made from peddling were generally small. For most, the principal benefit of the job was not its salary but the opportunity it gave the new immigrant to acquire the language and social skills necessary to set up an independent business at a future date in St. John's or in one of Newfoundland's growing industrial communities.

There had been Jewish immigrants to Newfoundland before the Perlins and their pedlars. One of the earliest, perhaps, was Israel Palmer, a settler in the George's Brook area in the early 1800s. Simon and William Solomon *qqv*, Newfoundland's first Post Office officials are traditionally considered to have been Jewish and so too were merchants named Ezekiel and Levi in the 1870s (Philip Tocque, 1878). These scattered immigrants, however, were never sufficiently numerous to form a *minyán*, a quorum of ten adult males, the number necessary to start a congregation or hold a Sabbath service.

early immigrants retained their ethnic or religious identity.

By 1909 the situation had changed considerably. So many Jews either worked for or owned a business in St. John's that the necessary quorum of adult males was available. The first congregation met that year (1909) at 170 Water Street in St. John's and appointed a J.L. Plot-sky as their spiritual leader. Thereafter meetings were held at one or another of several halls located on or near Water Street, the main place of work and residence for the city's Jewish population. Land was purchased for a Jewish cemetery in 1913, and in 1924 the congregation was formally incorporated to aid fund-raising. By 1926 the congregation was prospering, and supported, besides a temporary synagogue on the upper floor of the A.M. Penman Building on Prescott Street, a men's organization, a women's organization (the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society which was later renamed the Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood) and a chapter of the Hadassah-Wizo *qv*, an international Zionist organization. By 1928 the community had grown to the extent that steps were taken to purchase property for a permanent synagogue. No fewer than thirty-six members of the congregation donated to the building fund and Newfoundland's first synagogue was opened on Henry Street in downtown St. John's in 1931.

The years following World War I were prosperous for Newfoundland's Jewish community. St. John's directories indicate that between 1913 and 1928 the number of Jewish businesses in St. John's rose from five to fifteen, and numbered no fewer than twenty-four by 1936 (*Newfoundland Directory*: 1913, 1928, 1936; *St. John's Newfoundland Directory 1913*: 1913). New stores were opened in St. John's during this period by the Wilanskis (Wilanski & Sons Ltd., National Clothing, The Model Shop and Progress Clothing Store), the Levitzes (several dry-goods stores, a corner store, and a beauty parlour), the Cohens (The Cheapside and Broadway House of Fashion), the Epsteins (Modern Clothing Store and Popular Clothing Store), the Sheffmans (Sheffman Bros.), the Goldstones (London, New York & Paris) and individual merchants such as D. Feder (D. Feder & Co.), L. Rosenberg (Rosenberg & Co. Ltd.) and D.C. Saxon (Premier Garment). Outside St. John's, favorite post-war sites for new businesses were Newfoundland's new mill and mining towns. By 1930 Corner Brook, Grand Falls and Wabana all had one or more Jewish businesses, and by the late 1930s the Jewish community in Corner Brook had grown to the extent that, under the leadership of Arthur Kolonel, Newfoundland's second minyan was formed in 1937, and the Island's second synagogue opened in 1941. Throughout the 1920s and the early 1930s attempts were made by the St. John's congregation, and in the late 1930s by both the St. John's and the smaller Corner Brook congregation, to obtain the services of a rabbi. None was successful. An attempt to set up a Hebrew school in St. John's in 1928 was similarly hampered by the difficulty in attracting a permanent teacher to such an isolated posting. A Rev. Kelman stayed in St. John's but two seasons (1928-1930) and a

Rev. Cohen but one (1932-1933). The longer stay of Rev. I. Dvorkin (1933-1938) coincided with the completion of a new synagogue and the formation of a Board of Jewish Education, and marked the St. John's community's first successful, if limited, programme of instruction for their children. All three teachers were obtained by appealing to the Central Committee of Jewish Education in London.

During the war years the congregations in St. John's and Corner Brook devoted much energy to programmes for Jewish servicemen stationed on bases in Newfoundland. Following the war a wave of new refugees revitalized the St. John's community. The Corner Brook congregation, however, went into decline, forcing the closure of the Corner Brook synagogue in the 1960s. The St. John's congregation's first rabbi, Dr. Berend, arrived in 1948. Under Rabbi Berend's direction, the congregation expanded the scope of its activities to include, in addition to a Sunday and week-day Hebrew school, an adult-education programme, a PTA committee, a choir, kindergarten and full-scale Chanukah and Purim services. Property for a new synagogue was purchased on Elizabeth Avenue in St. John's in 1953. During the late 1950s much of the community's time was devoted to fund-raising for the new synagogue, which was completed in 1959 and officially opened in 1960 (See BETH EL SYNAGOGUE).

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the St. John's congregation struggled hard to raise the level of its schooling to recommended standards. Language classes were sufficiently well established by the early 1960s that some attention could be paid to an accompanying recreational programme organized largely under the auspices of the Hadassah-Wizo. During this period the constant change-over in rabbis and teachers continued to be a major problem for the congregation. Rabbi Rachmiel Miller, who succeeded Berend, was followed in the late 1950s by Rev. Eisenberg, Rev. Fishlovitz and Rabbi Kutziner; in the 1960s by Mr. Shane and Rev. Fromm; and in the 1970s by Rabbi Peterseil, Rabbi Zlatin and Rabbi T. Berman. Berman was still with the congregation in 1982. During the late 1970s and the 1980s the St. John's congregation shrank considerably in size. With the encouragement of their parents many sons and daughters of the members of the congregation moved to Canadian mainland cities which offered better educational and social opportunities. Furthermore, as the older generation reached retirement age, there was a tendency to settle close to one's children and grandchildren. By 1982 the congregation numbered about thirty-five families, half the number of families active in the congregation in the early 1960s. Rabbi T. Berman (interview, Nov. 1982). Lynn Hicks (letter, Aug. 1982), Ali Kahn (interview, Sept. 1982), E.M. Howse (1981), Leonard Mars (1965). Bernard Nathanson (interview, Nov. 1982), Maurice Wilansky (interview, Sept. 1982), D.S. Zlatin (1978). *Newfoundland Directory* (1928?; 1936), *St. John's Newfoundland Directory 1913* (1913), Archives (P9/7). PANG

HEBRON (pop. 1961, 189). A former Moravian Mission station located in Hebron Fiord in northern Labrador.

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUDLAND **DATE:** 1825 10 31  
**REFERENCE:** HARBOUR GRACE SURROGATE COURT

TOCQUE AND LEVI SUED RICHARD CARTER FOR L15/18/1 DEBT. NEITHER APPEARED

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1788 10 00  
**REFERENCE:** SLADE LEDGER, FOGO

MR. SIMON PAID 28/11 FOR CLOTHING FOR JOHN MARTIN, SEAMAN

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1789 10 00  
**REFERENCE:** SLADE LEDGER, FOGO

SIMON PAID 13/6 CASH IN APRIL ON ACCOUNT OF JOHN ELLIS, SLADE SEAMAN

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1823 01 30  
**REFERENCE:** HARBOUR GRACE SURROGATE COURT

SIMON ISSUED A WRIT AGAINST JONA MOORES OF FRESHWATER, 39/4D

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1823 02 03  
**REFERENCE:** HARBOUR GRACE SURROGATE

SIMON AGENT TO THE ESTATE OF THOMAS AND FREDERICK GOLD, DECEASED

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1827 05 10  
**REFERENCE:** NORTH CIRCULAR COURT

SIMON A MEMBER OF THE GRAND JURY

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1827 11 08  
**REFERENCE:** NORTH CIRCUIT COURT

SIMON AND PHILIP TOCQUE SUED FOR L5/19/6 FOR OVERCHARGES ON CLOTH,  
CLOTHING AND SHOES SOLD TO JOHN GOSS. TO PAY L3/14/-

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1828  
**REFERENCE:** SHIP REGISTER

OWNER OF THE SCHOONER ALPHA, BUILT AT NEW PERLICAN IN 1828, IN PARTNER-  
SHIP WITH PHILIP TOCQUE, REGISTERED 45/1828. 105 TONS, CAPT WILLIAM PENNY. IN  
1835 TOCQUE DIED AND SIMON AND ANN TOCQUE, EXECUTORS, MORGAGED THE  
VESSEL TO ROBINSON AND BROOKING AS SECURITY FOR A DEBT



**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1828 11 14  
**REFERENCE:** NORTH CIRCUIT COURT

SIMON, SON IN LAW TO PHILIP TOCQUE'S PRESENT WIFE, WITNESS IN THE CASE OF  
TOCQUE V. HOWELL

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1829  
**REFERENCE:** SHIP REGISTER

OWNER OF THE BRIGANTINE ELIZABETH, BUILT BARRINGTON, N. S. IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH PHILIP TOCQUE, REGISTERED 26/1829. IN 1831 RE-REGISTERED TO LEVI AND  
ANN TOCQUE. IN 1837 HE BECAME INSOLVENT AND SOLD THE VESSEL TO JOHN  
RORKE MERCHANT ON DEC 14

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1832 11 00  
**REFERENCE:** LEDGER

SIMON ON THE PACK (CARBONEAR MERCHANT) COMMITTEE IN ELECTION IN CAR-  
BONEAR

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1833  
**REFERENCE:** SHIP REGISTER

OWNER OF THE BRIG JANE, BUILT NEW PERLICAN, REGISTERED 99/1833, SOLE  
OWNER

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1833 03 00  
**REFERENCE:** SUPREME COURT

SIMON AND CO SUED BY HENRY HOWELL FOR L10/14/1D

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1833 11 00  
**REFERENCE:** NORTH CIRCUIT COURT

WRIT ISSUED AGAINST SIMON FOR L6/4/- BY DAN MCIVER

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1833 11 00  
**REFERENCE:** NORTHERN CIRCUIT COURT

TOCQUE AND LEVI SUED JOHN KENNEDY FOR L38/1/5

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1834 11 00  
**REFERENCE:** NORTHERN CIRCUIT COURT

SIMON AND CO SUED WILLIAM OF JOHN PENNY AND CO FOR L93/9/5D

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1834 11 00  
**REFERENCE:** NORTHERN CIRCUIT COURT

SUED ALF AND SAM PARSONS FOR L3/5/- AND HENRY PARSONS FOR L2/14/-

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1834 11 00  
**REFERENCE:** NORTHERN CIRCUIT COURT

TOCQUE AND LEVI SUED MARTIN BERRYGAN FOR L9/18/-

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1835 04 00  
**REFERENCE:** NORTH CIRCUIT COURT

SIMON ISSUED WRIT AGAINST JAMES NEAL FOR 12/11/-

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1846 10 17  
**REFERENCE:** NEWFOUNDLANDER

MR. WENT FROM ST. JOHN'S TO LIVERPOOL

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1847  
**REFERENCE:** NEWFOUNDLAND ALMANAC

SIMON INSPECTOR OF PICKLED FISH AT CARBONEAR

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1850  
**REFERENCE:** NEWFOUNDLAND ALMANAC

SIMON OF CARBONEAR, SECRETARY OF THE CARBONEAR WESLEYAN TOTAL ABSTINANCE SOCIETY, ON THE GRAND JURY OF THE NORTHER CIRCUIT IN MAY

**NAME:** LEVI, SIMON **CLASS:** NEWFOUNDLAND **DATE:** 1878 01 01  
**REFERENCE:** GAZETTE

SIMON DIED AT BOSTON 26 NOVEMBER, 1877, AGE 85

**SHELDON J. GODFREY, M.A., LL.B.**  
**BARRISTER & SOLICITOR**

**49 FRONT STREET EAST**  
**TORONTO, ONTARIO**  
**M5E 1B3**  
**TELEPHONE: (416) 362-7788**

March 9th, 1988.

Mrs. Roberta Thomas  
Assistant Archivist  
Maritime Archives  
Memorial University  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1C 5S7

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I am enclosing a copy of a document which indicates that an individual named Simon Levi was carrying on business as a merchant at Carbonear through an agent named John Rorke.

Is there any indication in your records of a Simon Levi who might have been headquartered in St. John's?

Thank you again for your co-operation.

Yours very truly,

SJG/lk

Sheldon J. Godfrey.

(912) Carbonear Sept. 13 1853  
I promise to pay Mr. John Rorke or his Order  
before the Twentieth day of August 1854. for  
an account of Simon Levi his Shillings and  
Sixpence being a just debt due him for goods & chattels  
rendered me at my request

Witness

J. Parsons

Henry Parsons of George  
mark Oterbury

912

NEWFOUNDLAND. Early Jewish presence  
in. H.d. 4to, 1 p. Carbonear  
Sept. 13, 1853. Promissory note  
of Henry Parsons (his mark)  
to pay to John Rorke or his  
order for an account of Simon  
Levi, 6/6d. \$150