

NAME: GREY, Samuel

PARISH: Tingwall, Shetland

ENTERED SERVICE: 27 May 1851

DATES: ca 1837 - 2 April 1922

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
<i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i>				
1851, 27 May	Signed five-year contract at Lerwick as a labourer			B.239/u/2, #733
1851-1884	Labourer/Middleman*	Churchill		B.239/g/92-113; B.235/g/12-22
1884-1885	Retired on pension			B.235/g/23
1922, 2 April	Died at Churchill			B.42/a/205, p.108

*Middle position in canoe or boat, often used interchangeably with labourer. When he signed his contract in May 1856, he was to "receive a gratuity of £3 pr. an., in the event of his acting and giving satisfaction as a fisherman."

B.239/u/2, #733

According to Michael Payne, "Fort Churchill, 1821-1900: An Outpost Community in the Fur Trade", *Manitoba History*, Autumn 1990, pp. 2-15, Grey and his wife [not identified] had four children: Nancy (m. George Oman), Mary (m. (1) John Grout (2) Norman Marten (3) George McPherson), Samuel and William. At some places in the article Payne appears to confuse this Samuel Grey with another Churchill employee of the same name, an Englishman who died in 1887.

His death was recorded in the Churchill post journal:

Sunday, 2 April 1922: Beautiful day...Mr Mitchell was called to see Sam Gray who had taken ill early in the morning and was showing signs of failing. Mr Mitchell went down and did his best to revive him, but unfortunately his efforts were of no avail, and Sam died a little after noon. He was the oldest inhabitant here being about 80 years of age. He was also a pensioner having served a term of forty five years in the Company's employ. Just recently he was decorated with a long service gold medal and three bars, and up to the time of his death was a very active man. He was a faithful servant of the Company and was highly esteemed by all the officers whom he had the pleasure to work under. His boyhood days were spent in Orkney Islands after which he was taken to this country at the age of 10. Thus passes another character of the "old times" and with him a great stock of country lore. He was a recognized authority of country lore, and had an inexhaustible stock of old time customs and anecdotes which one could never tire of hearing. His passing is deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He leaves a widow and married son. Funeral tomorrow.

3 April: Beautiful day mild. All hands attended the burial of Sam Gray.



B.42/a/205, p. 108