

# The Newfoundland Historical Society



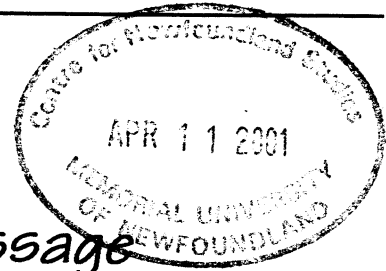
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## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2001

### President's Message



#### Executive 2000-01:

President,  
Eleanor Dawson  
Vice presidents,  
Linda White  
Joan Ritcey  
Past president,  
David Bradley  
Treasurer,  
Chris Butt  
Recording secretary  
Fran Warren  
Office manager & Editor  
Mary Bridson

#### Members at large:

James K. Hiller  
Rosemary Healy  
Terry Bishop-Stirling  
Anita Best  
Linda Cullum  
Garfield Fizzard  
William B. Frost  
Karen Cole  
Fred Winsor  
Larry Dohey

#### Programme Committee:

Terry Bishop-Stirling (chair)  
Linda White  
Rosemary Healy  
Fred Winsor  
Karen Cole

#### Publications Committee:

Garfield Fizzard (chair)  
Jim Hiller  
Mary Bridson  
Linda Cullum  
Anne Hart  
David Bradley  
(Nfld. Quarterly rep.)

#### Finance Committee:

Chris Butt (chair)  
Eleanor Dawson

Once again, the Newfoundland Historical Society has been receiving kind remarks from attendees at our recent symposium, *17<sup>th</sup> Century Newfoundland: The English Shore*. We were pleased not only with the number of people who attended but also with their level of participation. The success was due to a combination of factors: an interesting program which included the leading scholars on the topic of 17<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland, a lively and well informed audience, and a well planned event for which I would like to thank the programme committee, chaired by Terry Bishop Sterling. The programme was designed to appeal to the general public, and to invite debate and discussion, all of which serves our mandate of bringing history into the public realm. As a result of this and similar events over the past several years, the work of the Society is becoming better known to the general community.

Throughout the Fall and Winter the NHS presented a successful series of lectures. The last event in this series is scheduled for Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and will combine a lecture and a book launch. Dr. Ronald Rompkey will present a lecture entitled *Jessie Luther and the Grenfell Mission*, to be followed by the launch of his book of the same title. Books will be available that night at a discount to our members.

The final public event for the Society this year will be a symposium on the history of the forest industries in Western Newfoundland entitled *Woodland Echoes*, and to be held May 4 and 5 in Corner Brook. The forest industry has been the mainstay of the Corner Brook economy since Newfoundland Power and Paper Company Limited celebrated its official opening in 1925.

Those attending the symposium will find themselves involved in a number of engaging activities with both an historical perspective and a local flavour - panel discussions, theme dinners, fascinating lectures and interactive lessons by presenters with a flair for bringing history to life. A committee comprising staff and faculty at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, representatives of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, and members of the Newfoundland Historical Society are in the process of finalizing this exciting two-day schedule.

## Membership Committee:

Larry Dohey (chair)  
Linda White  
Mary Bridson  
William B. Frost

## History in the School Curriculum Committee:

Fred Winsor (co-chair)  
Nfld. Historical Society  
Hope Squires (co-chair)  
Beothuk Institute  
Jim Hiller  
Nfld. Historical Society  
Anita Best  
Nfld. Historical Society  
David Bradley  
Association of Heritage Industries  
Jean Brown  
Wessex Society  
George Chalker  
Heritage Foundation  
Jessie Chisholm  
ANLA  
Janet Story  
MANL

The news that the provincial government has increased the annual heritage grant by \$80,000 in the recent budget has come as a welcome surprise. The NHS has worked hard over the past several years to convince the government of the economic and social value of investment in the Heritage Sector. Some of our hard work seems to have paid off! The Society will continue to play its part to raise awareness of heritage issues.

Mary Bridson will be stepping down from her duties as NHS office manager at the end of April. I would like to thank Mary for her hard work and dedication over the past six years and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours. I would also like to thank Darrell Hillier and Karen Cole, who will not be seeking re-election. Darrell edited the newsletter for the last eighteen months, and has also been managing our website. Karen has served on the programme committee. Thank you also to the other members of the executive for their contribution to the Society over the past year, and our members for their continued support.

Eleanor Dawson,  
President

## Heritage Fairs Representative:

Linda Cullum

## Regional Committee:

Linda White (chair)  
Gordon Bradley  
Ivy White Tong  
Lorna Stuckless  
Sandra Wheeler  
Doug Wells  
Clayton Billard  
Robert Parsons  
Joan Fleming  
Betty Jerrett  
Ross Dawe  
Bob Balsom  
David White  
Maureen Sullivan  
Dale Kennedy

Bonavista South  
Bonavista North  
Notre Dame Bay  
West Coast  
South Coast  
Southwest Coast  
Burin Peninsula  
Placentia  
Conception Bay North  
Conception Bay South  
Trinity South  
Trinity North  
Southern Shore  
Northern Peninsula

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## Office News

### Office hours

The Colonial Building will be closed during a public workers' strike, but otherwise the office will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 4:15, until the end of April. Arrangements can be made to consult files at other times. Call ahead (709) 722-3191 after April 30 for new office hours.

### Membership

Membership has now risen to 523, but unfortunately there are still 61 outstanding renewals. A final reminder is enclosed for these.

### Reference statistics

From January 1 to March 31, 2001, there were 23 visits to the office, 80 phone enquiries, and 37 written/faxed/e-mail enquiries.

### Obituary

We are sorry to note the passing of Rupert Bartlett, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, on December 31, 2000, aged 79. Mr. Bartlett was an active member of the Society for many years, serving on the Cabot Celebrations Committee of 1947-49, as Councillor, Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and finally as President in 1972-73, after which he was awarded honorary membership.

### Goodbye!

I have enjoyed meeting so many of our members, old and new, near and far, over the last six years, and helping them with their enquiries. I hope to continue seeing you at Society events, from the other side of the table!

Mary Bridson

# NHS Winter Lectures, 2001

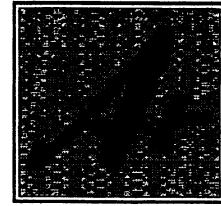
On January 25 Gabrielle Kemp spoke to a packed hall on **The Apotheosis of Sir Wilfred Grenfell: Photography, Philanthropy and Christian Manhood at the Labrador Mission**. With the use of carefully chosen slides, several from the collection of Grenfell's own hand tinted lantern slides at the Provincial Archives, she explored the way in which photography was used, or even manipulated, long before the advent of modern photo journalism and graphic documentaries. Dignitaries in St. John's did not like the images of poverty and neglect that the photographs suggested, but Grenfell was not condemned like his contemporary Dr. Bernardo for questionable before and after shots. The images also showed a transformation of the character of Sir Wilfred, from the early shots of physical prowess and the Victorian ideal of manliness, to the later portraits of a fatherly, caring figure, a compelling tool in the building of Grenfell and his mission into a worthy and godlike figure and cause.

**From a 1932 calendar depicting the work of Sir Wilfred and the Grenfell Mission, produced as a fundraiser by the Grenfell Association [7.04.046]**



Over 50 people braved the icy blustery weather on February 22 to hear Margot Duley's stimulating talk about the important role played by farming in the Newfoundland economy in the 18th and early 19th centuries, and especially women's participation in it. A native Newfoundlander, Dr. Duley has spent much of her academic life studying and writing about women's place in Newfoundland history, and this talk comprises part of a comprehensive study to be published in the future. Beginning and ending with a wonderful adaptation of Otto Kelland's famous song, **Let me Farm at Cape St. Mary's** was a well documented examination of this aspect of outpost life, its triumphs over poor soil, lack of government attention and funding, its vital role as a supplement to the fishery, and its very high rate of potato production at its peak, before the decline of the 1920s.

Mary Bridson



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Deadline April 27, 2001

## History Essay Contest

In recognition of the 100th anniversary this year of the founding of the *Newfoundland Quarterly*, The Honourable A.M. House, Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, will provide a prize of \$1000 for the winner of a History Essay Contest on a topic relating to Newfoundland and Labrador.

It is open to all except professional academics. Word limit is 5000 max.

Mail entries by  
September 1, 2001,  
to

*Newfoundland Quarterly*,  
PO Box 13486,  
St. John's, NF,  
A1B 4B8

The Placentia Area Historical Society, Town of Placentia and the Newfoundland Archaeology Heritage Outreach Program, on behalf of the French Shores Working Group, cordially invite you to attend their 2nd annual symposium. This is the next stage in the evolution of the French Shores Working Group, an alliance among community groups, municipal governments, provincial government departments, heritage organizations and Memorial University archaeologists and historians. The focus of the group is the study and development of the province's diverse French heritage.

For further information please contact Charmaine Cooney, President, Placentia Area Historical Society, (709) 227-0727 [c.e.cooney@thezone.net](mailto:c.e.cooney@thezone.net) Geraldine Roche, Administrative Assistant (709) 227-5568 or Steve Mills, Coordinator ([sfmills@mun.ca](mailto:sfmills@mun.ca)), Newfoundland Archaeological Heritage Outreach Program (709)737-8923.

Please register by April 12.

We would like to thank our partners:  
 Parks Canada • Memorial University • Newfoundland Historical Society •  
 • Canada -Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Development Agreement •

# Placentia Area Historical Society

## French Shores Conference

Placentia, April 26-29, 2001

### Thursday, April 26, 2001

Wine & Cheese 7:00 pm Meet and Greet

### Friday, April 27, 2001

Session One 9:00-9:45 am Dr. Olaf Janzen (Sir Wilfred Grenfell College)  
 Subject: French Settlement  
 Session Two 9:50-10:30 am Mr. James Candow (Parks Canada Historian)  
 Subject: French Military in Placentia  
 Nutrition Break 10:30-11:00 am  
 Session Three 11:05-11:45 am Dr. James Hiller (Memorial U., History Dept)  
 Subject: Petit Nord  
 Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm  
 Out and About 1:00-4:30 pm  
 Supper 6:30 pm Dr. Peter Pope (NAHOP, Memorial U.)  
 Subject: Outport Archaeology

### Saturday, April 28, 2001

Session One 9:00-9:45 am Dr. Brad Loewan (U. Laval)  
 Subject: French Ships 1500-1800  
 Session Two 9:50-10:30 am Dr. Nicholas Landry (U. de Moncton)  
 Subject: Placentia Merchants 1690-1713  
 Nutrition Break 10:30-11:00 am  
 Session Three 11:05-11:45 am Ms. Ann Drost (Quebec Labrador Federation)  
 Subject: Champlain-Richelieu Heritage Corridor and 400th Anniversary Celebration Project  
 Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm  
 Out and About 1:00-4:30 pm  
 Supper 6:30 pm Dr. Michael Wikshire (Memorial U.)  
 Subject: Slide Show on 19th century iconography of the French presence in Newfoundland

### Sunday, April 29, 2001

NAHOP Members 10:00 am Brunch



**Placentia (from Mount Pleasant) by S.H. Parsons from The Ancient Colony and its many and varied attractions, 3rd ed. [1907-1912] [7.02.072]**

