

The Newfoundland Historical Society



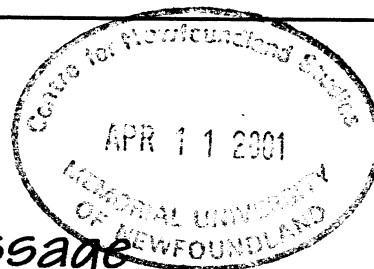
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NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2001

President's Message



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Joan Ritcey
Past president,
David Bradley
Treasurer,
Chris Butt
Recording secretary
Fran Warren
Office manager & Editor
Mary Bridson

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

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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, *17th 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 17th 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 26th, 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:

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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

Heritage Fairs

Representative:

Linda Cullum

Regional Committee:

Linda White (chair)

Gordon Bradley	Bonavista South
Ivy White Tong	Bonavista North
Lorna Stuckless	Notre Dame Bay
Sandra Wheeler	West Coast
Doug Wells	South Coast
Clayton Billard	Southwest Coast
Robert Parsons	Burin Peninsula
Joan Fleming	Placentia
Betty Jerrett	Conception Bay North
Ross Dawe	Conception Bay South
Bob Balsom	Trinity South
David White	Trinity North
Maureen Sullivan	Southern Shore
Dale Kennedy	Northern Peninsula

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

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

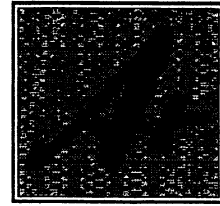
On January 25 Gabrielle Kemp spoke to a packed hall on **The Apotheosis of Sir Wilfred Grenfell: Photography, Philanthropy and Christian Manhood at the Labrador Mission**. With the use of carefully chosen slides, several from the collection of Grenfell's own hand tinted lantern slides at the Provincial 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

Geraldine Roche, Administrative Assistant (709) 227-5568 or Steve Mills, Coordinator (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

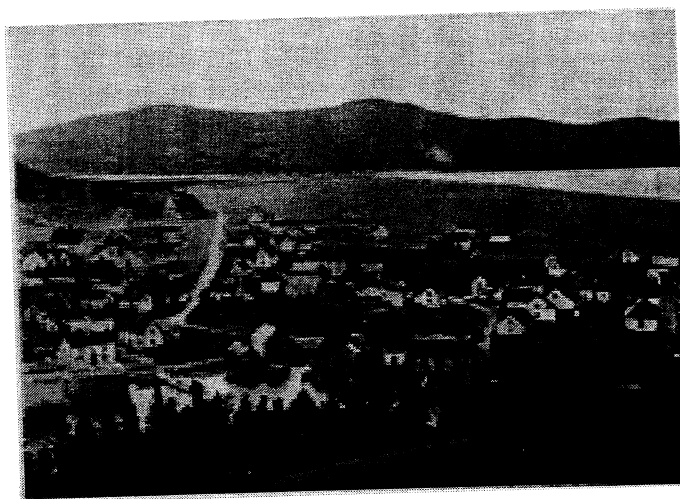
Dr. Michael Wikshire (Memorial U.)

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]

Woodland Echoes:

The Forestry Industry in Western Newfoundland

NHS Symposium, May 4 - 5, 2001, Corner Brook

Friday Afternoon, May 4: 3:00 -5:00 pm

Place: Arts & Culture Centre, University Drive. Wine and Cheese Reception
4:00 pm **Speaker:** Rainer Baehre.
"The Folk Art of Bond Penney: Logging and Working Class History in Western Newfoundland during the 1940s"

Friday Evening, May 4: 7:00 pm

Place: Columbus Club
Dinner: Traditional Logger's Dinner
 Presentation of school essay contest prizes (tentative); Presentation of NHS Heritage awards; Presentation of Plaques (tentative)
Speaker: John Ashton. *"Logging Songs"*
Music: Logging and Other Songs (Friends of Rufus)

Saturday Morning, May 5: 9:00 am -1:30 pm

Place: Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Book Display
9:00 am **Speaker:** James K. Hiller. *"The Politics and Origins of Pulp & Paper"*
9:45 am **Speaker:** James Candow. *"Lomond"*
10:30 am Coffee and Muffins. Visit to the regional Heritage Fair (SWGC gym)
11:00 am **Speaker:** Neil White. *"Corner Brook 1923-1955: A Study In Industrial Paternalism"*
12:00 noon Lunch (SWGC) Greetings from local dignitaries

Saturday Afternoon, May 5: 1:30 - 5:00 pm

1:30 pm Mill tour (Buses from SWGC to the Mill)
3:30 pm Panel Discussion: *"Different Perspectives: Out and About the Mill"*
 Contessa Small (Chair): Jerry Cook, John Lee, Tom Murphy, Sophie Newman, Roy Foster.

Saturday Evening, May 5: 7:00 pm

Place: Blomidon Golf & Country Club Cash Bar
7:30 pm Dinner (semi-formal)
Speaker: Kevin Sheehan
Music: Traditional Newfoundland Music by the Lancers

**Lumber mill in
 Northeast Arm,
 Bonne Bay
 from
The Ancient
 Colony and its
 many and varied
 attractions, 3rd
 ed. [1907-1912]
 [7.02.072]**



*What kind of food was served
 in a typical Newfoundland
 logging camp?
 What songs and stories can be
 attributed to the working lives
 of papermakers and loggers?
 How did these hardworking
 people shape the history of
 our province?*

These are a few of the questions
 that this regional symposium
 will answer.

Corner Brook is a fitting
 location for the event, given
 that the city was recently named
 Forest Capital of Canada for
 2002 by the Canadian Forestry
 Association. 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 be swept into the past of
 the pulp and paper industry,
 whether scoffing down a meal
 of beans and homemade bread
 in a 1930s logging camp or
 listening to the songs that
 evolved through the culture of
 harvesting trees and making
 paper. They will find
 themselves involved in a
 number of engaging activities
 with both an historical
 perspective and a local flavour,
 including a full tour of Corner
 Brook Pulp and Paper.

For more information

Sandra Wheeler, chair,
 Organizing Committee,
 Tel: (709) 637-6200, ext. 6433
 swheeler@swgc.mun.ca

Linda White, chair,
 Regional Committee
 Tel: (709) 737-4349/4074
 lindaw@mun.ca

17th Century Newfoundland:

The English Shore

NHS Symposium, March 23-24, 2001, St. John's

We need to find a bigger space! Well over 200 people turned up for every session of our March symposium, and there was barely standing room.. We knew we had an excellent slate of speakers, but even we were surprised at the enthusiasm shown for this early period of our history. Some of the credit must go to the exciting revelations currently being made by archaeologists at sites such as Ferryland and Cupids, which are attracting growing numbers of visitors, and the slide shows presented by archaeologists James Tuck and Bill Gilbert were ample testimony to this.

The symposium began on Friday evening with a discussion of the legality of settlement on the English Shore in the 17th century. Christopher English and Patrick O'Flaherty presented different interpretations of the evidence of statutes, orders in council, grants etc., ably assisted by participation from the audience. Until the definition of terms such as "use" and "enjoy" are agreed upon, the debate, it seems, will continue.

On Saturday Jeff Webb began with an overview history of the century as it relates to English settlement in Newfoundland, providing us with the context to be fleshed out by later speakers. Gordon Handcock presented a profile of the English settlers based on his many years of study of census and other records. Peter Scott gave us a peek at the remarkable variety of flowers, fruits, cereals and vegetables available to the settlers, as well as the native flora, and how this evidence is determined. Peter Pope explored the significant role of women in this century in general, and in Newfoundland in particular. And Alan Macpherson recounted the extraordinary exploits of D'Iberville and his small band of Frenchmen and Indians who, starting out from French-settled Placentia, caused great death and destruction on the English Shore from the southern Avalon up to Trinity at the end of the century, but did not deter the settlers.

This was a wonderfully instructive couple of days, with social breaks for wine and cheese, coffee and muffins, and a closing banquet at the Battery Hotel with poached salmon and a thought-provoking speech by Shane O'Dea. Don't miss next year's event!

Mary Bridson



The giant Union Jack flying at Cupids in 1910, celebrating the 300th anniversary of John Guy's Colony [7.04.050]

Calendar of Other Interesting Events

Tuesday, April 24, 2001 at 8:00 pm

Title: "C.A. Pippy Park: The Vision and the Reality"

Speaker: Dr. Jo Shawyer, Dept. of Geography, MUN

Place: Botanical Garden, 306 Mount Scio Rd., St. John's

Thursday, May 31, 2001 at 8:00 pm

Topic: *Irish Immigration to Newfoundland*

Speaker: Dr. John Mannion

Place: Benevolent Irish Society Centre, 30, Harvey Rd., St. John's

Thursday, June 28, 2001 at 8:00 pm

Movie: "Waking Ned Devine"

A comical story of the trials and triumphs of winning the lottery.

Starring: Ian Bannen and David Kelly.

Place: Benevolent Irish Society Centre, 30, Harvey Rd., St. John's

April 6, 2001 - February 24, 2002

Exhibit: "Lifelines: Canada's East Coast Fisheries"

In collaboration with Newfoundland Museum, New Brunswick Museum, P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation, and Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Place: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Hull, QC

Historica Summer Institutes For Teachers of Canadian History July 8 - 15, 2001

"Stepping into History: Strategies for Bringing History Alive!"

For teachers of Canadian History, Grades 3-9

Place: Kamloops, BC

Guest Speakers: Laurier LaPierre and James Marsh

July 8 - 14, 2001

"Exploring our Identities: Differing Perspectives & New Strategies in Teaching Canadian History"

For teachers of Canadian History, Grades 9-12

Place: Montreal, QC

Guest Speakers: Jack Granatstein and James Marsh

Details: www.histori.ca/historica/eng_site/resources/summer_inst/

August 30 - September 1, 2001

Conference: "People and the Sea: Maritime research in the Social Sciences - An Agenda for the 21st Century"

Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Details: www.siswo.uva.nl/mare

Bay Roberts

The "Road to Yesterday" Museum, Bay Roberts, has been chosen as one of the provincial destination sites for the 2001 Receiving The World Celebrations. Targeted opening date for the exhibit is June 1, 2001.

Site Updates

Newfoundland Historic Trust

New phone no.
(709) 739-7870

New website under way
www.historictrust.com

Heritage Events Site

New address for posting and checking upcoming events
www.heritagefoundation.ca/events.htm

Heritage Organizations

Our database of local groups can be found at
www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist/histfed.html

They are arranged by federal electoral district, with provincial organizations first.

Don't overlook our links to national and other sites, as well as the *Encyclopaedia of Nfld. & Labrador* and *Dictionary of Newfoundland English* at
www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist/others.html

**The Newfoundland
Historical Society**

Annual General Meeting

will be held on

Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 8.00 p.m.

in

Hampton Hall, Marine Institute, Ridge Road, St. John's

Ronald Rompkey

will be speaking on

**"JESSIE LUTHER AND THE
GRENFELL MISSION"**

and launching his new book of that title

Reception to follow.

*Copies will be available for purchase at discount price
for members of the Society.*

The presentation is free and everyone is welcome.

Free parking.

Next Newsletter in September!