

NHS Newsletter

Fall 2004

A publication of the
Newfoundland

Historical Society

Editor: Anita Best

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

News, resources and events for Newfoundland & Labrador's history community



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Questions, comments,
letters to the editor and
membership enquiries
may be addressed to:

NHS Office
Colonial Building
Military Road
St. John's, NL
A1C 2C9

☎ 709 722 3191

☎ 709 729 0578

✉ nhs@thezone.net

[www.infonet.stjohns.nf.ca/pro
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Entente Cordiale Symposium: September 16-20

From Symposium Brochure

In 1904, Britain and France concluded a group of agreements which, collectively, became known as the *entente cordiale*. An important event in European history, the *entente* signaled what turned out to be a lasting *rapprochement* between the two countries.

One of the agreements, often overlooked, ended the long-standing dispute over French fishing rights on the Newfoundland

coast between Cape St. John and Cape Ray—the so-called French Shore. These rights derived from the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), and during the course of the 19th century were the cause of serious disagreements among the governments of Britain, France and Newfoundland. In 1904, the French government finally agreed to give up those rights in return for compensation. The Newfoundland

government had long resented the French presence on their coasts, and the *entente* was greeted in the colony with considerable enthusiasm. In St. Pierre et Miquelon by contrast, the agreement was (and is) seen as a disaster.

The Newfoundland Historical Society and its partners have launched a symposium to be held in St. John's from September 16-18 and in Corner Brook (continued on Page 2)

President's Remarks

Welcome back. I always feel that September is the real beginning of the New Year and I look forward to a busy and exciting one. The Society's executive have had an active spring and summer. In May we joined friends in Bay Roberts for a symposium on the Labrador fishery. Thanks to a lot of work led by Betty Jerrett in Bay Roberts and Debbie Andrews in St. John's we learned a great deal about the history and significance of this fishery to the Conception Bay area. You will find more on this inside.

This summer we have also been making plans for our upcoming year. We will start off with a conference on the Entente Cordiale from September 16 to the 20th in St. John's and Corner Brook. Signed by England and France 100 years ago, the Entente marked the end of many traditional grievances between the two countries, most significantly from our point of view, it meant the end of French rights on the treaty shore. Partnering with the Provincial Archives and the Department of Tourism, we have planned

an exciting conference featuring local, national and international speakers bringing perspectives from France, England, St. Pierre and Newfoundland and Labrador. Again, you will find more details inside on this and the rest of our exciting fall line-up.

Planning and presenting our program takes a great deal of our time but we will continue to follow up on other areas of interest such as History in the schools and we will work with other heritage organizations on common goals. (Continued on Page 3)



What's happening to the Colonial Building? Has the new PC Government made any plans for its restoration? renovation? continued use?

PASSAGES

Former Newfoundland and Labrador MP and Senator Jack Marshall died on August 17, 2004 in Morrisburg, Ont., at the age of 84. The decorated veteran of the Second World War had been ill for some time. A member of the Order of Canada (1995), he has also been honoured with the Meritorious Service Award and the Palm Leaf by the Royal Canadian Legion and with a special award for humanitarianism by Pope John Paul II, and this year was recognized with the Order of Ontario.

Entente cordiale symposium (continued from front page)

from September 19 to 20. The symposium will examine the history of the French Shore, the negotiation of the entente cordiale and its local impact. In addition, there will be workshops on researching Newfoundland's French heritage. Scholars from Britain, France and St. Pierre will join colleagues from Newfoundland in placing the 1904 agreements in their global and local contexts.

Participants include:

Adrienne Blattel (Québec-Labrador Foundation); Robert Vormier (Association régionale de la côte ouest); Kathy Elliot (West Coast Historical Society/Corner Brook Museum); Françoise Enguehard (St. Pierre et Miquelon); Rodrigue Girardin (L'Arche--St. Pierre et Miquelon); Robert Greenwood (Memorial University); James Hiller (Memorial University); Olaf Janzen (Sir Wilfred Grenfell College--Memorial University); John Keiger (University of Salford); Ronald Rompkey (Memorial University); Clare Sanderson (Université de Paris--VII); Sean St. George (Red Ochre Regional Board); Edward Tompkins (Archival Consultant--Paris); Pascal Venier (University of Salford); Michael Wilkshire (Memorial University).

The 5-day Symposium schedule in brief follows;

Thursday in St. John's
7:30 PM--public lecture at MUN by Dr. Pascal Venier (The Early 20th Century International System)

Friday in St. John's
2 PM Session 1 (Workshop)
5 PM--reception at Provincial museum
8 PM Session 2 Introducing the French Shore
9 PM--Reception

Saturday in St. John's
9:30AM Session 3 The Making of the Entente Cordiale
12:30 PM Lunch
1:30 PM Session 4 The Newfoundland Government and the Negotiation of the Entente
3 PM Session 5 The View from St. Pierre et Miquelon
4PM Session 6 General discussion and questions

Sunday in Corner Brook
7 PM Reception at SWG
7:45 PM Session A Introducing the French Shore

Monday in Corner Brook
9 AM Session B The Making of the Entente Cordiale
12 noon Lunch
1:30 PM Session C

Researching the French Shore (Workshop)
3 PM Session D The French Shore and Heritage Tourism
7 PM Reception

For more information, please call the NHS office (722-3191) or the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (737-7475).

The NHS wishes to thank the following sponsors:



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Tribute in NFQ

I draw your attention to a wonderful tribute by NHS Past-President Joan Ritcey and NFQ Editor Linda Whalen to longtime member Gert Crosbie who died this past March. The tribute was published in the Spring 2004 issue of *The Newfoundland Quarterly*.

We rely on our members to let us know about deaths as well as significant events in the lives of their friends and associates. We would love to hear from you. Please contact the NHS office by telephone, post, or e-mail with your news.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
 Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Paris

Letters to the Editor

The following was sent to the editor by Selma Barkham, currently in Plum Point preparing for the 8th Northern Peninsula Heritage Conference (September 24-26):

August 19, 2004

THE NEED FOR THE OLD FERROLE TOURIST INFORMATION CABIN

There is absolutely no tourist information building on Route 430 for the huge length of the Great Northern Peninsula between Gros Morne National Park and St. Anthony that informs tourists about Captain James Cook's surveys along this coast, or about the earlier Basque presence and the later French presence in

important harbours such as Old Ferrole.

During the last eight summers I have talked to bus-loads of tourists who arrive at Plum Point and have been told nothing about the significance of this place. They are all delighted to find out about Cook's presence in this harbour for nearly two weeks in 1764, and are equally interested in the story of the captain of the San Pedro, Antonio de Iturrizabalza, who was here in 1632. If just two pieces of information can fascinate tourists, it can surely be understood that an entire display of maps and illustrations with explanations about this part of the Peninsula would enormously

enrich visitors' appreciation for and understanding of what they can do and see.

Philip Pratt has designed an attractive tourist information cabin that could attract a lot of tourists who would otherwise whiz past without attempting to find out why it is a historic place. All we have to do now is find the money to have it built. If you can help please contact the Northern Peninsula Heritage Association.

Selma Huxley Barkham

Editor's Note: *The Northern Peninsula Heritage Association is currently raising funds to have this Tourist Cabin erected.*

Please visit www.oldferrole.com for items of historical interest, the conference schedule and other information.

Old Ferrole Harbour, at Plum Point, is the site of The Northern Peninsula Heritage Society and The Basque Canadian Institute.

It is also a site visited by Captain James Cook in 1764, while mapping the coasts of Northern Newfoundland.

Below is a photograph of the remains of Basque Flakes.

President's Remarks (continued from front page)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past President Joan Ritcey for her service over the last two years and indeed to thank all our hard-working executive for their continuing efforts. We welcome two new members this year. Dr. Maudie Whelan is a returning executive member who brings us a wealth of historical knowledge and experience in journalism. Vicki Barbour is an Honours student in the History Department at Memorial who also has both journalism and business experience to add to our talents. I know that they will both contribute greatly to our Society.

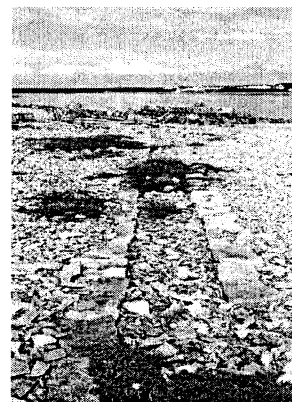
Through this newsletter we will keep you informed about our activities. Unfortunately we are currently having some problems with our website and we realize it is quite out-of-date. We are taking steps to rectify the problem so please bear with us. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us through our office.

As you can see, we have not stopped working over the summer and are gearing up for another busy year ahead. None of this would be possible without your continuing support. Memberships expire in January and we urge you to renew by then

and encourage friends to check us out and consider joining as well. With increased costs and decreased funding we have been forced to raise membership fees as of January, 2005, but at \$28 a year the Newfoundland Historical Society is still a really good deal. You will receive this newsletter and a subscription to the Newfoundland Quarterly while contributing to our mandate to preserve, promote and share the history and heritage of our province.

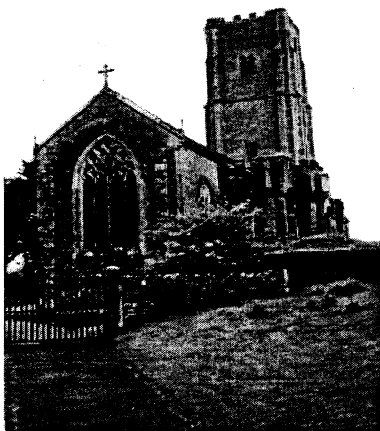
I look forward to seeing you at our meetings this Fall.

Terry Bishop-Stirling



THE BIRTHPLACE OF SIR WILLIAM WHITEWAY

The Church at Littlehempston, which William Whiteway attended as a boy, half a mile from his father's farm.



The political career of Sir William Whiteway, fifth Prime Minister of Newfoundland, spanned almost the whole of the second half of the nineteenth century. The events of the second half of the twentieth century in Newfoundland, closer to us therefore tend to eclipse the importance of those earlier years of political and economic development. Whiteway was an important player in that great period, but his origins and formative years, as formerly for many Newfoundlanders, were in Devon.

William Vallance Whiteway was born at the farm of Buckyette (also as Bokey, pronounced Buck-yet) in the parish of Littlehempston in south Devon on 1 April 1828, the youngest son of Thomas Whiteway and Elizabeth Vallance. His father was still farming there in 1850, but the house in which William was born was pulled down in the 1870's when a local builder bought the estate and built a finer Victorian home just above it on the hillside with a wider view across the rolling Devon fields. The barns of the old property still stand, partly converted into dwellings. A lane leads half a mile to the centre of the parish, the church of St. John the Baptist and the Tally Ho Inn. The rector of Littlehempston in Whiteway's childhood was the Rev. Stephen Weston, a man of considerable

wisdom, a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, one whose enlightened teaching would have had an effect upon the liberal policies of the later Sir William.

William went to school at first in Totnes, to the ancient King Edward VI Grammar School. He would walk the three miles by road and footpath along the course of the Hems, a small stream feeding into the river Dart. Later he was sent to a private school at Newton Abbott, eight miles away, which would have required him to board there.

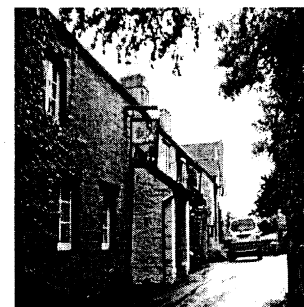
As the youngest son, there would be no place for him at the farm. The normal practice would have been to make him an apprentice. At 15 he was sent to St. John's to some business connection of the family, possibly to work for his uncle, R. R. Wakeham. He probably sailed directly from Totnes, for although it is ten miles up the Dart from the open sea, the river is tidal and navigable even today up to Totnes. Otherwise he would have sailed from one of the ports on Torbay, Paignton or Brixham.

The names one finds in the graveyard at Littlehempston, like Barter, Carew, Heap, Ricketts, Steer and Tucker, names not at all common in England, but ones common now or formerly in Newfoundland, attest to the

Newfoundland connection with this area. Both Heap and Steer are names of former merchant houses in St. John's. The names of Whiteway and Vallance are still common in South Devon; the Whiteway name is familiar through their brand of cider. Buckyette itself is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. R. Miller, who give bed-and-breakfast accommodation to occasional visitors.

Editor's Note:

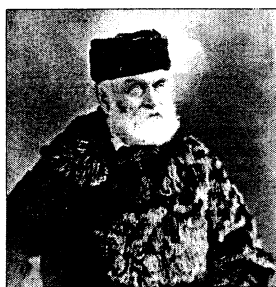
The above article and photos were submitted by Professor E. David Morgan of Keele University, Staffordshire, England.



The Tally Ho Inn at Littlehempston
The village consists of only the Church, the pub, a few houses and scattered farms.



Here is one of the still-extant barns of the farm Buckyette where William Whiteway was born. The house in which he was born was demolished in 1870, and rebuilt.



William Whiteway, 1897

From the A.R. Penney Collection, courtesy of Harry Cuff Publications and Newfoundland Heritage web site

News for Archivists

The Canadian Council of Archives has added a new "Advocacy" section to their web page [\[www.cdncouncilarchives.ca\]](http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca).

Through their collective advocacy initiatives, your experiences, values, and opinions will make an impact -- they will become the evidence you present in the public arena to win support.

The CCA Advocacy section aims to provide you with the tools to communicate this evidence to your various audiences: different levels of Government, your sponsors, partners and stakeholders, the media and the general public.

While the call to action is urgent, getting involved is easy and by working together as advocates, we

can ensure the survival and well-being of the Canadian archival system. If you have any questions, information or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the CCA Board of Directors, or the Secretariat (telephone 1-866-254-1403) or email cnichols@archivescanada.ca).

The Dictionary of Canadian Biography is online at <http://www.biographi.ca> and the Canadian Genealogy Centre at <http://www.genealogy.gc.ca>.

What's happening this Fall in St. John's?

SEPTEMBER SYMPOSIUM - DECORATIVE ARTS-

"Decorative Arts in Newfoundland and Labrador: Rich Traditions, Today's Fine Crafts" is the title of the 22nd annual symposium of the Canadian Society of Decorative Arts. The event will be held in St. John's this year, September 24 to 26, and will feature presentations about the province's traditional and contemporary craft. Speakers include Michael Massie, Gloria Hickey, Paula Laverty, and Walter Peddle; the keynote address is by Robert Mellin.

The Canadian Society of Decorative Arts provides an opportunity for dialogue between the makers of fine craft and those who appreciate and celebrate them. The Annual Conference

includes tours, a reception at Government House, and a gala dinner at The Fluvarium. The event is being co-hosted by the Provincial Museum and Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador in partnership with the Museum Association, Craft Council and Anna Templeton Centre. For information contact Perry at the Provincial Museum, 729-2414.

BASILICA MUSEUM OPEN!

The Basilica Cathedral Museum located at the corner of Military Road and Bonaventure Avenue is now open. The newly renovated museum was originally built as a Public Library and Reading Room in 1859. A British Officer writing in 1861 described the library as "the finest room in the colony."

The Museum features fourteen professionally designed panels that tell the story of the development of Roman Catholicism in Newfoundland. Also featured is the largest collection of church artifacts of artistic and historical significance in Canada. Artifacts on display date from 1524 and include sacred vessels, furniture, liturgical garb, paintings, books, and much more.

Hours: Monday to Saturday: 10 AM to 4 PM
Sunday: 11:30 AM to 4 PM
Admission: \$2:00

Tours: To arrange for a group tour or for more information call 709-726-3660 or e-mail ldohey@nf.aibn.com
For a virtual tour of the Basilica Cathedral explore our home page at www.stjohnsarchdiocese.nf.ca



The Basilica Museum
in St. John's

The Beyond the Overpass column is a "great addition" to the NHS Newsletter. We need more news from your community. Send your copy and photos to the editor of the NHS Newsletter.
[\[lambest@nf.sympatico.ca\]](mailto:lambest@nf.sympatico.ca).

Doors Open in St. John's-September 11 and 12

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In the Fall of 2003 the Newfoundland Historic Trust and its partners held Atlantic Canada's first ever Doors Open event, Doors Open St. John's, inviting the public into historically or culturally significant buildings for free. It was an overwhelming success, and Doors Open St. John's 2004 promises to be even better!

Event information is available online and will appear in the Telegram. On the days of the event, drop by the City of St. John's Tourism and Economic Development Building at 348 Water Street to pick up your site map and event information and head out to see FOR FREE:

Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Apothecary Hall/Pharmacy Museum

Basilica Museum (Bishop's Palace)

Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

CBC Television Building

City of St. John's Tourism and Economic Development Building

Hindu Temple

Holy Cross Monastery (Spa at the Monastery & Suites)

Mosque / Islamic Centre

MUN Botanical Garden

New Central Fire Station

Newfoundland Sikh Society Gurdwara and Cultural Centre

Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site

Presentation Convent

Provincial Museum

Quidi Vidi Brewing Company

Railway Coastal Museum

Waterford Manor (Waterford Bridge Road) ...and maybe more!

Doors Open St. John's 2004 is supported in part by CBC, the Telegram, City of St. John's, Spa at the Monastery, Signs Now, Heritage Foundation of NL, and the CED Program of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

For more information about Doors Open St. John's see www.doorsopendays.com or call Amanda at 576-2315.

New exhibit open at Heart's Content Cable Station

On August 12, Tourism, Culture and Recreation Minister Paul Shelley officially opened the new exhibit *Life at Heart's Content Station, 1868-1922* at the Heart's Content Cable Station.

The history of the Heart's Content Cable Station dates back to the late 19th century when it became the site of the first successful transatlantic cable landing, revolutionizing communications

between Europe and North America. The site continues to be a popular attraction for residents and tourists interested in exploring this unique history, with over 7,500 visitors last year. (Continued on page 7)

Beyond the Overpass—Placentia

"What an idea that was!"

In 2003 the Newfoundland Historic Trust and its partners carried out the first Doors Open event in Atlantic Canada, inviting the public to a variety of historic or cultural sites in St. John's for free. This year Placentia launched its own event!

The inaugural Doors Open Placentia event took place on August 22, 2004. Kenneth Flynn of the Placentia Area Historical Society, which took the lead on organizing the event, says, "The Doors Open Placentia event was a huge success. Some 460 people took part in visiting the twelve sites despite some heavy downpours."

The twelve participating sites, staffed mostly by volunteers keen to tell visitors about their historic or culturally significant properties, included O'Reilly House Museum, Sacred Heart Parish Church, the Chaloupe Construction Site/Placentia Board House, Castle Hill National Historic Site, Placentia Fire Department, Holy Rosary Parish Church, St. Luke's Anglican Church, St. Martin's Anglican

Church, the Leonard J. Miller Cultural Heritage Centre/Archaeological Interpretation Centre, Belle's Restaurant, Dixon Inn, and Wakeham's Sawmill.

Tom O'Keefe, Co-Chair of the Placentia Plan 2004 Committee, directed compliments "to all the individuals who helped plan and run the Doors Open that went so well" and extended congratulations to the Placentia Area Historical Society for its success. He says, "I personally talked to people from Whitbourne, St. John's, Ontario and USA who were impressed."

"What an idea that was!" says Rachelle Connors, an interpreter at Castle Hill National Historic Site who was working there during the Doors Open day. "They came to Placentia from all over this area as well as distant places. They were all surprised that this was taking place. We were very busy on Castle Hill. A large number told us that they had visited other sites in the town. Even with such bad weather, they still came. This will make our region that much more familiar to all both near and far."

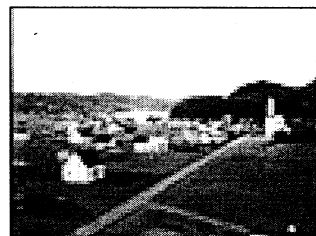
Amanda Ross

Heart's Content (Continued from page 6)

Through the use of journals, text panels, photographs and artefacts, *Life at Heart's Content Station, 1868-1922* looks at all aspects of life for those who came to work at the Heart's Content Cable Station and demonstrates how the presence of the cable transformed the architectural face of the community, as the company constructed buildings to accommodate the transatlantic cable operation itself and housing for its staff.

The new exhibit also explores for the first time the role of women who worked at the Heart's Content Cable Station in the early 20th century, including opportunities for recruitment, working and living conditions, and the impact the cable station had on other workforce opportunities for women in the province. The Heart's Content Cable Station offered a new type of work experience and job opportunity for as many as 61 women, possibly the first work environment (outside of the fishery) in the province where women worked side-by-side with men doing the same jobs and received the same pay, benefits and opportunity for promotions.

The display was designed by local designer Dougald Dunbar who worked with Glen Keough of Provincial Historic Sites.



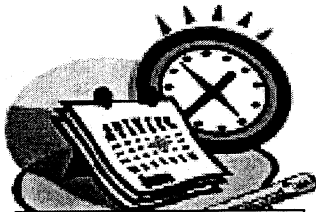
Placentia before 1901
Holloway Photo
Courtesy CNS Archives

Information for the exhibit has been drawn from company records found at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Smithsonian Institute, personal journals written by staff who worked and lived at Heart's Content, and from the recollections of relatives of those who came to work at the cable station during this period.

The cable landing has been designated an event of national historic significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The Heart's Content Cable Station was designated a Provincial Historic Site in 1974. Below: a painting of the cable landing by Henry Clifford (1821-1905).



NHS Fall Lectures Starting in October



NHS Fall Calendar

September 16-20

Place: St. John's and Corner Brook

Newfoundland and the Entente Cordiale: A Symposium

(See pages 1 and 2)

October 28

NHS Lecture

Place: Hampton Hall

Time: 8 PM

Dr. Willeen Keough

November 25

NHS Lecture

Place: Hampton Hall

Time: 8 PM

Dr. Peter Pope

The Newfoundland Historical Society is starting its **Fall Lecture Series** in October this year, because of the *Entente Cordiale* Symposium taking place during the third week in September.

Thursday, October 28 is the date of the first lecture, to be given by **Dr. Willeen Keough**. Her topic **John Moxley disinterred: Assertions of ethnic territory in 18th- and 19th-century Conception Bay** sounds fascinating.

On November 25, **Dr. Peter Pope**, historical archaeologist with Memorial University, will launch his new book, entitled **Who Were the Planters? The Human**

Face of the 17th-century English Shore. His lecture is sure to draw a crowd, so make sure you are at Hampton Hall in lots of time.

On January 27, 2005, Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archivist **Bert Riggs** will deliver a lecture on the renowned **Professor Danielle**, who is perhaps best known for his extraordinary Octagon Castle. The lecture, entitled **Charles Henry Danielle: Professor of the Terpsichorean Arts**, will give us a fascinating glimpse into the world of that eccentric adopted Newfoundlander.

A complete schedule for the winter and spring will be printed in the next issue of the NHS Newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for lecture topics, we would be delighted to consider them. Just drop us a line, send us an e-mail, or even call the office when you have a spare moment.



Jean-Marc Nattier

(1685 – 1766)

Terpsichore, Muse of Music and Dance

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Regular \$24 Life \$400 Institutional \$24 Student (no Quarterly) \$15

Donations to the Newfoundland Historical Society are always welcome

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