

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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



Heritage Awards at Government House

The Newfoundland Historical Society presented two heritage awards Thursday November 27th at 4:00 pm in a private ceremony hosted by The Lieutenant Governor, Ed Roberts at Government House. This year's recipients were Roland Abbott of Musgrave Harbour and Jim Tuck of St. John's. The purpose of the awards, which have been presented since 1975, is to recognize exemplary contributions in preserving

and promoting the history and culture of Newfoundland and Labrador.

After a brief welcome by Society president, Joan Ritcey, His Honour, Ed Roberts, took the podium and welcomed everyone to Government House and expressed his happiness at being asked to host the event. "As many of you know I have a keen interest in Newfoundland history and I can't think of

a more historical place than Government House, which has played such a significant role in our history, or at least the people who have lived in this house, have made important contributions in shaping our history." The Lieutenant Governor then extended an invitation to make the ceremony at Government House a yearly event.

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Newfoundland and Labrador in 2003

It has been an interesting year for Newfoundland and Labrador: On the political front, Danny Williams led his Progressive Conservatives to victory in the provincial election, while John Efford became a cabinet minister in the new Liberal Government in Canada.

On the academic front, Memorial University received three new Tier I Canada Research Chairs and reduced tuition fees by five per

cent. As well, Dr. Proton Rahman, a rheumatologist with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial led a research team that discovered a new gene in psoriatic arthritis.

On the religious front, Father Paul Lundrigan and most of his congregation took a stand on same-sex marriages that didn't go down well with their Bishop and *The Monitor* closed down after 70 years of publication.

In other news, NHS Member Eric Jerrett

was the 21st recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award from Memorial—our congratulations, Eric. The Newfoundland Museum on Duckworth Street in St. John's closed its doors and waits to turn into one of the Rooms butterflies sometime in June.

We are still waiting to hear the status of the Colonial Building and the Newfoundland History Course for Grade Eight.

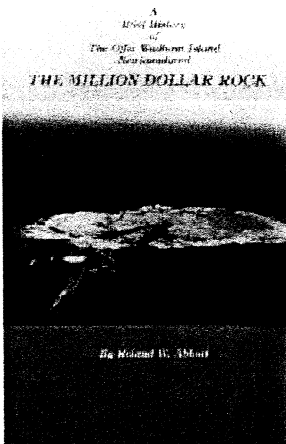
Heritage Awards

Jim Tuck(From Jeff Webb's Citation)



Dr. Jim Tuck

"In the last nearly 40 years Dr. Tuck has personally written much of the prehistory of Newfoundland and Labrador."



*The Million Dollar Rock
By Roland Abbott*

It's a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to thank Jim Tuck, on behalf of the Newfoundland Historical Society, for his contribution to the exploration and preservation of our archaeological heritage. There are many grounds upon which we might have decided to acknowledge his contribution to the province. In the last nearly 40 years Dr. Tuck has personally written much of the prehistory of Newfoundland and Labrador. Jim's scholarly contribution in defining the Maritime Archaic tradition, establishing a cultural chronology for coastal Labrador, exploring the 16th century Basque whaling industry, and revolutionizing what we know of 17th century English settlement upon the Southern Shore, are all of such significance that we might give him an award for any of these accomplishments. We might also recognize his teaching and graduate supervision at Memorial University of Newfoundland since 1967, in which he trained several generations of archaeologists who themselves have made significant contributions to the history of the province's Native Peoples and European settlers. The Newfoundland Historical Society has

chosen to today acknowledge in this small way the model of community archaeology, which Jim pioneered... In Red Bay and more recently in Ferryland, Tuck has made each community the beneficiary of the work, rather than just the backdrop to his own research. He has employed a large number of local people in all of his excavations, who are then taught skills and an appreciation of the heritage of their towns which will last long after the excavation has finished. Jim has always seen the tourism potential not only of historic sites but of archaeology itself as a concrete way he can help foster heritage development in local areas.... Jim has involved the community at every level and endeavored to maximise the local benefit.

His model has shown how to do archaeology that contributes to economic and cultural renewal as well as uncover aspects of the past that had been lost. On behalf of the Newfoundland Historical Society I would like to say congratulations upon your accomplishments, and we all eagerly await the findings of your next field season.

Roland Abbott

Roland Winfield Abbott was born in Musgrave Harbour, Newfoundland and grew up there,

spending his early teens fishing in the summer with his father and four brothers on the Offer Wadham Islands.

His first ambition, after finishing school, was to become a navigator or sea captain, and made several trips on his uncle's schooner both as a crewmember and passenger. It was on one of those trips - on the Erema H., in 1929 - that he was shipwrecked at Lumsden, barely escaping with his life... Roland came ashore and home, where he was offered a teaching position pro-term; he began work in January 1930. In 1969 he retired from a teaching career that spanned forty years.

Roland Abbott is a Past Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Maritime Provinces; a Past Grand Master of The Grand Black Chapter of Newfoundland; one time Mayor of Peterview and Councillor and Town Clerk of Musgrave Harbour. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1979 and for twenty-five years wrote a column in the Gander Beacon. He is the author of three books: Our Year 80, The Three Seas, and The Million Dollar Rock. In 1977 he was awarded the Coronation Medal, and, in 1992, the 125th Anniversary of Canada Medal.

President's Remarks

Dear members,
The Executive and I were delighted to see large turnouts for Andrew Cook's and Roberta Buchanan's September and October lectures; we hope you enjoyed them. We also saw many of you at the Association of Heritage Industries (AHI) conference on community heritage sustainability on October 3-4. November 27, a big day for the Newfoundland Historical Society, went off well. The Heritage Awards ceremony had been planned for several months. Citations were read and heritage awards were bestowed on Roland Abbott and James Tuck,

followed by a reception hosted by Lieutenant Governor Ed Roberts at Government House. (The newly decorated Government House was bright and welcoming late on a winter's afternoon and we all had a delightful time). That evening Robert Mellin's lecture at Hampton Hall was a standing-room-only affair and there was another reception after that. (Do think of the historical society as a social club.)

As usual, heritage matters have been in the news in recent weeks - the new Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation,

Paul Shelley, was appointed, the St. George's Church Heritage Committee is all over the media, whipping up support for the preservation of the old Brigus church, and progress on The Rooms construction is reported every few weeks.

May I suggest you give Newfoundland Historical Society memberships to family and friends as birthday gifts this year? Call Office Manager Melanie Martin at 722-3191.

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An Innu Couple
photographed by Pritchard

NHS Lecture

On January 29, Larry Coady spoke on Hesketh Pritchard's 1905 and 1910 treks through Labrador, trails that Larry himself has walked and photographed.

Taken from the St. John's Daily News, Saturday, April 10, 1920

At Thursday night's meeting of the Historical Society, Mr. H. W. LeMessurier, C. M. G., presiding, Mr. E. R. Furlong was elected to membership. Rev. P. W. Browne, of the University at Booklands, D. C., and Mr. I. Kennedy, will be balloted for at the next meeting. Dr. J. A. Robinson presented some extracts from the Annual Register, among which from the volume of 1811 appears a despatch of the Duke of Wellington in which Lt.-Col. Henry Pynn is mentioned. This

volume was some time the property of Mr. W. Alexander, of Bonavista, whose name appears on it with the date 1816. He states Pynn was a native of St. John's and an employee of Elms. The fact is that he was born at Bristol's Hope (Mosquito). The Royal Newfoundland Regiment or Royal Newfoundland Fencibles are mentioned in despatches of 1812, referring to the attack by the Americans on Detroit. Ensign Kerr recorded as wounded. He was a relative of the McBrides,

of the firm of McBride & Kerr, after whom McBride's Hill is named.

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UNESCO ADOPTS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO SAFEGUARD INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

*"The safeguarding
of intangible
cultural heritage is
of general interest
to humanity."*



"Woman"
By Angela Andrew
Sheshashur

*The Innu Tea Doll--a
tangible result of
intangible skills and
knowledge*

*"The Newfoundland
Historical Society
favours the AHI's
proposal: to have the
provincial heritage
organizations housed in
the building."*

Paris, October 17 - Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage, the performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, as well as knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship, now benefit from an international legal instrument to safeguard intangible heritage through cooperation.

"The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is of general interest to humanity," states the Convention, which underlines its "invaluable role" in "bringing human beings closer together and ensuring exchange and understanding among them." The convention requires a minimum of 30 States Parties to enter into force.

UNESCO's Director-General Koichiro Matsuura welcomed the Convention, which "expresses the urgent need for action in this domain," he said.

Algerian judge Mohammed Bedjaoui, a former president of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, added, "Despite all its complexity, this concept of intangible cultural heritage has affirmed and finally imposed itself on all of us as a key concept in understanding the cultural identity of peoples [...]. Every word of this convention is a grateful tribute to the creators and artisans of this wonderful heritage, to the great and also to the humble and anonymous, to the authors and the guardians of the temple of the traditions and knowledge of peoples."

The convention specifically provides for the drawing up of

national inventories of cultural property to be protected.

The adoption of the new convention is the result of a long process of awareness raising, which intensified in recent years but began with the 1982 Mexico City Conference, where UNESCO's Member States first evoked the concept of intangibility to refer to the body of humanity's expressions of spirituality. In 1989, UNESCO adopted the Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore, but the fact that it is not legally binding has limited its impact.

Dr. Gerald Pocius, MUN Folklorist, is one of Canada's representatives to the UNESCO Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The complete text of the Convention can be found at: <http://www.unesco.org/confgene/2003/intangible>

President's remarks--continued

A heritage building issue that several members have asked me about is the Colonial Building. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, a committee made up of interested stakeholders and government staff is looking into future use of the building. The Newfoundland Historical Society favours the AHI's proposal: to have the provincial heritage organizations housed in the building. The heritage industries of

Newfoundland & Labrador are largely run by volunteers; giving their organizations housing in a government building would be a great gift. It would also be a nice fit if all the heritage organizations could be housed in the Colonial Building, as it would allow "one-stop shopping" for people who wish to learn about or get involved in heritage issues. The heritage organizations are in a good position to help the government too. Being

non-profit organizations, they are eligible for federal government program funding for projects such as building restoration. The heritage organizations are keenly interested in making sure the building's history is not forgotten and are prepared to create displays and publications about the province's political history. We think it is the best solution on the table.

All the best wishes for 2004, Joan

Book Review

The Doryman

By Maura Hanrahan
Flanker Press, 2003
ISBN: 1-894463-40-4
Genre: Historical Fiction

Reviewed by Melanie Martin

Maura Hanrahan, author of numerous newspaper and journal articles and three books on Newfoundland society and culture, has created a detailed and engaging story in her first novel, *The Doryman*. Written as a tribute to her late grandfather, this former host of the CBC Radio's *Fisheries Broadcast* has produced a fictionalized account of his life in the Grand Banks schooner fishery in the early twentieth century. Hanrahan easily transports readers to bygone days through her vivid description of the tragedies and harshness of dory fishing on the South Coast of Newfoundland.

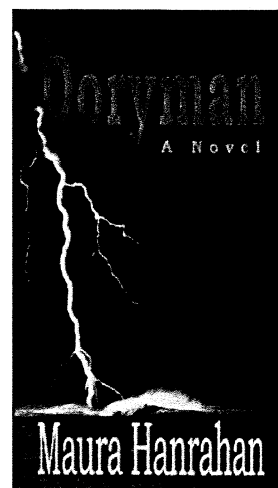
The novel centers on the life of Richard Hanrahan and his introduction to the dory fishery as a 'rite of passage' to manhood in rural Newfoundland, which eventually becomes the root of the character's internal conflict. When Steve, Richard's father, announces that his nine-year old son, and a shareman in the making would accompany him to the fishery in the spring of 1898, Richard was consumed with grief at the thought of leaving school. After joining the crew, he continued to be haunted by the thought that his father was ashamed of him.

The Doryman traces Richard's life into manhood, marriage, and his growth into a respected seaman and one of the best salters in the bay. Though he remained engaged in the fishery, Richard's thoughts constantly drifted to creating

a better life on shore for his family.

Hanrahan cleverly weaves some of Newfoundland's worst tragedies into the story, such as the August gales and the tidal wave that affected the Burin Peninsula during Richard's lifetime. Her command of the geographic area and family names in which she writes about will be appreciated by those also familiar with the area.

Hanrahan envelops her true-to-life characters into the devastation and fully captures the emotion that must have been felt by those on shore and at sea. *The Doryman* is a true depiction of outport life and a tribute to those who were economically tied to the mercy of the cruel Atlantic Ocean.



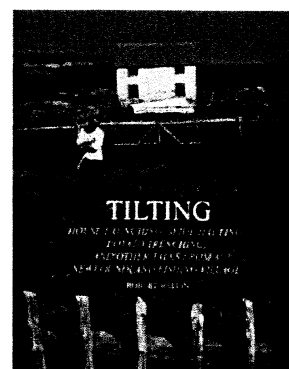
Memberships for the Society are now due. Please send back your cheque with the form on the back page and keep your membership up-to-date. An NHS membership makes a great gift!

Robert Mellin's Lecture

After the heritage awards ceremony on November 27th the NHS concluded its busy day with Robert Mellin's lecture on his recent publication *Tilting: House Launching, Slide Hauling, Potato Trenching and Other Tales From a Newfoundland Fishing Village*. Through the use of colourful slides and stories of homegrown culture, Dr. Mellin transfixed the packed hall with images of fish flakes, wood stoves, and the vernacular architecture of Tilting.

What began as Mellin's PhD thesis in 1987 finally came to light in March of 2002 when Princeton Architectural Press in New York agreed to publish his book, which Mellin describes as "part journal, part sketchbook, and part oral history". He spent a great deal of time collecting his information and integrating himself into the community as only one can when trying to understand the complex connection between nature and self sufficiency in a fishing village. Dr. Mellin began the

lecture with a taped recording of one of his favourite songs titled *Alone in His Workshop*, sung by a local man from Tilting. Mellin is fascinated with the tools, fences, houses, and other outbuildings the people of Tilting made with their limited palette of materials. Part of his collection contained photographs of peculiar odds and ends that grabbed his attention. His lecture can best be described as a scrapbook of memories: a glance back at a way of life that is struggling to survive.



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BEYOND THE OVERPASS

Two communities on the west coast, Port au Port and St George's have undertaken ambitious heritage projects. Both are fortunate in having buildings that have been designated Historic Structures and both have dedicated community groups which have worked to preserve their

Mellin--Continued

His photos captured the essence of outport Newfoundland from the interior and exterior of its houses looking outward to the sea to landscape covered in dried fish and nets. It was also a biography of the people and Mellin's interaction with them, as they shared with him their life's work and a piece of themselves, the very heart of Fogo Island. Mellin sees Tilting and its people as a model for sustainability, a view obviously shared by the people of Fogo judging by their attendance at his lecture as a show of support.

Dr. Mellin is vice-chair of the Heritage Foundation and has been instrumental in working with the town to help preserve their heritage and restore their buildings. On June 21, 2003 the town of Tilting was designated a National Historic Site due to its complete range of traditional buildings associated with Newfoundland's inshore fishery. What began as an idea for a PhD thesis has

history. Various government grants and projects have allowed the groups to do some work, but heritage buildings require substantial infusions of capital if they are to be restored and preserved. Our Lady of Mercy Church and Museum Committee in Port au Port runs a seasonal museum (open April-September)

flourished into not only a book, but into an enthusiasm for Tilting that has helped inspire residents of Fogo to provide a model for sustaining heritage communities throughout Newfoundland. In this process Robert Mellin has collected a wide variety of sketches and artefacts unique to outport Newfoundland, made a lifetime of friends, and has truly become the adopted son of Tilting.

Melanie Martin

♦♦♦

News Around Town

The *Doors Open Project* in St. John's on September 6 and 7 was a marvellous success. The idea was to get access to buildings the public might not otherwise get to see and highlight the importance of those buildings.

The most visited sight was the Basilica and its crypt, but Presentation Convent, The Winterhome Heritage Inn, and the mosque were all close seconds. During the two-day event, more

than 25,000 visitors went through the heritage buildings. The event was the brainchild of The Newfoundland Historic Trust

with the historic church as their primary exhibit. This committee is to be commended for its wonderful fund-raising efforts which, combined with student projects for staffing, have kept the museum in operation. They have assembled an impressive collection of materials in the museum located in the former pastor's residence next door to the church.

♦♦♦



Congratulations to former NHS president Paul O'Neill on the revised edition of his wonderful book on St. John's, entitled THE OLDEST CITY.

Paul was president of the Historical Society from 1975-1978.

Beyond The Overpass Continued

Though the original focus was the Church, the Museum has expanded to include many aspects of peninsula life with exhibits from the Aguathuna quarry, the old Abbott-Haliburton business, education, and material culture. Both Church and Museum require major expenditures if they are to be preserved and peninsula residents hope that some funding can be found to do the necessary repairs.

St George's and Sandy Point, once the hub of western Newfoundland, is a goldmine for heritage buffs. A number of heritage organizations have combined efforts and focused on restoring the old courthouse as a potential museum. The building, which is currently owned by the Bay St George Indian Band, was designated as a Historic Structure in 2001. The plan is to reopen the building as a Mi'k Maq cultural/historic museum and Interpretation Center for Sandy Point and the Town of St George's. The upstairs will house artifacts from donors and archaeological projects while the downstairs will have theme rooms highlighting Sandy Point, the Acadians, the Newfoundland Rangers, the railroad, and other aspects of Bay St. George's history. All

heritage and development associations in the area have representation on the Court House Restoration Committee and it is an excellent example of the type of partnership required for this kind of endeavor. The committee has ascertained the structural soundness of the building, developed a business plan, and applied for funding from ACOA. It would be a tremendous boost to the area if funds can be found for this very worthwhile project.

Tina Martin



For up-to-date news on St. George's Church in Brigus visit the web site of the St. George's Heritage Committee. Their informative web site is <http://www.ecoastonline.ca/sghc/index.asp>



National News

Heritage Canada Foundation held its Annual Conference in Winnipeg September 18-20th.

Quebec City is this years' Heritage Canada Foundation award winner as the government that has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the preservation of its built heritage. The municipality's successful conservation initiatives include the maintenance and promotion of four

historic districts and an innovative urban forestry scheme that enhances both the natural and the built heritage.

Heritage Canada has also awarded two achievement awards this year. The first is in partnership with the Heritage Society of British Columbia and was awarded to Mr. Donald Luxton who has been a heritage consultant involved in evaluating, planning, managing, restoring and writing about heritage properties for 20 years. The second was awarded in partnership with the Manitoba Historical Society and given to La Maison Gabrielle-Roy Corporation of St. Boniface, Manitoba for its dedication in restoring the birthplace of celebrated Canadian author Gabrielle Roy.



END OF AN ERA

December 19th was the last day the Newfoundland Museum opened to the public on Duckworth Street – the end of an era that spans more than 90 years!

The new Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador will open in late June 2004 in its new home at **The Rooms**.

EDITORIAL

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over for another year and Candlemas Day will be fair and fine, I hope.

All through Christmas, a line from John Lennon kept running through my mind: "And now it is Christmas, so what have you done?" Let's take his words off the world stage for a moment and apply them to a smaller venue: the heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. What have you done this year to protect your precious cultural inheritance? Have you written a letter to a politician? Have you joined or renewed your membership in a local heritage society? Have you passed on a song or story or a piece of important knowledge to someone younger? Have you taught someone a skill that was handed down to you? Did you go mummering this Christmas?

The changes that have overtaken us in the past few years have been enormous, particularly for rural communities. Many aspects of our culture are becoming paler, while some have vanished altogether. Examples of our amazing fishing craft—schooners, jack boats, trap skiffs, rodneys, flats, punts—are becoming scarcer and scarcer. So

are the men who know how to build them; who can find the right mores for the knees, the right timber for planking and the place where a keel or a keelson can be found. Although the people in Salvage and Tilting (and some other places, too) have begun to safeguard their stages, wharves and flakes, these buildings, and the knowledge that built and used them are getting harder to find in many other communities.

What can we do to halt this trend? We can stop taking our heritage for granted and take notice of the small things in our lives that altogether make up the larger cultural mosaic we have inherited and to which we will eventually add our own contributions. We can learn how to dance a square set or to play hundred-and-twenties. We can learn (or teach someone) to make a pease pudding or a pair of vamps, or a Labrador tea doll. We can hang on to that old bureau or whatnot we found in the attic—it might be more valuable as an heirloom than a new Nintendo game. We can make an effort to bring the family together for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday or get the community together on Bonfire Night. We can write letters to the Editor

(NHS Newsletter, too).

We can prod our municipal and provincial politicians to legislate economic development in ways that are sensitive to our built heritage. We can become the guardians of our own culture by learning more about it and engaging more enthusiastically in it.

That's not to say that we have to do everything exactly the way it was done before—every generation makes tradition live by bringing to it elements of its own time and place. Traditions can change to fit the circumstances, but they can also die if everybody knocks off doing them.

So let our New Year's Resolution be to become more aware and active, heritage-wise, in 2004. Let us take an active part in saving our built heritage, and in deciding what happens to our public spaces (The Colonial Building is an example). Let us get involved in community heritage issues (Hats off to the Heritage Group in Brigus who took action to keep St. George's Church a part of their community). Let us add something new to our personal heritage repertoire. I think I'll try my hand at a pair of finger-and-thumb mitts—if Mom is up to teaching me this winter. *Anita Best*

NEWFOUNDLAND STUDIES

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO MEMBERS OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newfoundland Studies is an interdisciplinary journal that has been publishing since 1985, based in Memorial University's Faculty of Arts. Its issues include essays on a wide range of subjects, also documents, review articles, book reviews, and an annual bibliography. Some issues are devoted to special themes. Volume 14:2 was a special issue on Confederation, 17:2 was devoted to 18th century Newfoundland, with essays on early Irish migration, the fishing admirals and more. For information about the journal, see www.mun.ca/nflds/

Newfoundland Studies is pleased to offer to members of the Newfoundland Historical Society who are not already subscribers a chance to buy the *next four issues* at the preferential rate of \$24.00, a considerable saving over the newsstand price.

If you would like to take advantage of this remarkable offer, please inform the office *by February 27, 2004*, and send a cheque for \$24.00 made out to the Newfoundland Historical Society, to the address on the front page.

James Hiller, editor



PATHS NEWS

The Provincial and territorial Historical Societies PATHS, of which NHS is a member, have announced special offers of interest to our institutional members. Their new website devotes a section to the issues and news important to PATHS members, including grants and fundraising tips, designed to assist you in the daily operations of communicating your local stories to your constituents and visitors. Visit them online at <http://www.historyandsociety.ca/out.asp?subsection=p> **at**



Leonidas Hubbard Revisited

A few old Labrador hands could be seen mingling with the rest of us city-folk on the occasion of Dr.

Roberta Buchanan's illustrated lecture in October, "Leonidas Hubbard: Writer, Explorer, Fool, Saint?". Well known for her work on the Labrador explorations of Mina Hubbard, in this talk, Dr. Buchanan considered the life and career of Leonidas Hubbard. While many of us know about Hubbard's disastrous attempt to reach Ungava Bay via the Naskaupi River, we know little about his life prior to that fatal four-month trip in 1903. Setting her study in the social and historical context of the time, Dr. Buchanan drew on journals kept by the men involved in the trip - Hubbard, Dylan Wallace and George Elson - as well as secondary sources on Labrador and other explorer's writings. Wonderful slides of the Labrador rivers and the maps used illustrated the route travelled, and we viewed poignant photographs of the party preparing to depart and in their campsites en route.

Dr. Buchanan began by wondering who and what sent Leonidas Hubbard on his ill-fated journey into Labrador. Why does this singular event constitute much of our public knowledge of Hubbard? How did his life experiences and class position shape his personality? What values did he hold about the relationship between "man" and nature? Was Hubbard a "saint" as his wife Mina thought or a "fool" who started on a

hazardous journey without enough supplies or the right equipment to survive the trip?

Leonidas Hubbard was born in Michigan, the son of a farmer. He was an avid fly fisherman and nature lover, often writing about camping trips for the outdoor magazine, "Outing." But did his more tame nature experiences in New York State prepare him for Labrador? Buchanan notes that in an age of muscular Christianity, best typified in Newfoundland and Labrador by Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, Hubbard sought challenges throughout his life, believing that men of character should do so. She links this need for masculine challenge to his choosing to make the Labrador journey.

Dr. Buchanan suggests that the trip suffered from bad planning, inaccurate maps and poor decision-making. Someone who had never been on the route drew the map the party used and the important river they sought was misnamed on the map. The expedition got off to a bad start with Hubbard finding the going rough and the packs very heavy. Hubbard notes that he discarded or gave away quantities of valuable supplies at the start of the trip in order to lighten the load. Ironically those supplies might have made the difference in his survival.

Questions remain as to who led the expedition: who made the decision to discard the supplies, who chose the river routes followed? Did Hubbard, by virtue of being white, an outdoorsman, and the originator of the expedition assume the leadership role? Did the more experienced George Elson challenge these decisions? How might race have been implicated in the leadership by Hubbard? Was Elson's limited knowledge of the area a factor in the fatal trip?

The large audience in attendance raised even more questions about Hubbard's journey and offered other insights into his preparation. For example, why did the group take the firearms they did and how might this have contributed to their limited ability to hunt for game during the trip? Why was accurate geographical information not obtained from local people? While we will never know the answer to the many questions raised by Dr. Buchanan or her audience, this fascinating talk expanded our public knowledge of Leonidas Hubbard's life before his Labrador journey that brought him so much posthumous fame. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and judging by the intense conversations over coffee following the talk, so did the rest of the audience.

Linda Cullum

PASSINGS

NHS Member John Gosse, Sr. of Whitbourne passed away on November 13, 2003.

Leida Finlayson, former General Manager of Newfoundland Historic Trust, died in July. A new 'Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship' will be presented to MUN and given to a student of history or political science, awarded annually as part of the Southcott Awards and the St. John's, Day Celebrations.

HAPPENINGS

Over 180 people participated in MANL/AHI Sustaining Heritage and Communities conference October 3-5, 2003.

HERITAGE WEB SITE

The Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Web Site is proof that the secret to a successful Web site is not always in the bells, whistles and countless flash animations. Since its launch in 1997 the site has received over 10 million hits, and now averages 300,000 hits per month.

"The purpose of the site is to make accessible, to as many people as possible, reliable information on the history and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador," said Dr. James

Hiller, History Department faculty member and academic co-ordinator for the Web site.

Interest in the Web site comes from a wide variety of audiences including school kids, university students and tourists.

"The aboriginal community is also a significant source of interest," added Vince Walsh, Web site co-ordinator. "Many, including people of aboriginal decent, have expressed their interest and pleasure in the information provided there."

Mr. Walsh says a major reason for the site's success is the wide range of information provided and the strategic way it is organized and presented. "What I believe we do more than any other site is actually provide the information people are looking for," said Mr. Walsh. "When people go to our site they find what they need with minimal effort."

"The site is well-designed, easily navigable, looks good and, most of all, it's reliable," added Dr. Hiller. "I've been told by a number of academics that the Heritage Web site is one of only a few they will allow their students to use because they can trust the information provided on it. In fact, the draft of the text book to be used in the new course on Newfoundland and Labrador history in junior high schools, coming on stream in 2004,

makes reference to the site on many occasions."

Mr. Walsh works hard to ensure all information uploaded to the site is 100 per cent correct. "If we are not sure about the accuracy of something we will go directly to the source to check it out," he said. This reputation for reliability has contributed greatly to the site's continued success since there has been nothing done in recent times to promote site usage. The Heritage site is most frequently accessed through its listing on all major search engines or through one of the thousands of other sites currently providing a direct link.

Another obvious reason for success is the size of the site. The core articles are organized around six themes: Natural Environment; Aboriginal Peoples; Exploration and Settlement; Government and Politics; Society and Economy; and The Arts. The site further features partnered projects with the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador, The Heritage Foundation, Dictionary of Newfoundland English and many others. Mr. Walsh says it is most likely the largest history Web site in Canada.

"The former dean of Arts, Dr. Terry Murphy, was instrumental in getting this off the ground," said Mr. Walsh. "He was very

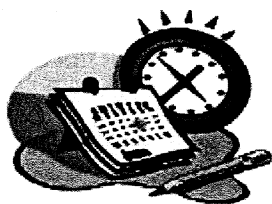
positive about the site from the beginning, he was important in getting the funds going and he was always encouraging. He is a big part of why this Web site is so successful today."

While funding for the site has now dried up, it still remains very popular. Unfortunately, until further funding is secured, site expansion will not be able to take place at the pace it has in previous years. "We are now trying to go back to putting primary material on the site," said Mr. Walsh. "We realized one of the areas underdeveloped on the site was Labrador. To correct this we decided to place all 12 volumes of the Labrador Boundary Dispute on the Web."

"This is a hugely important collection to people interested in Labrador history," added Dr. Hiller. "It's got all the fundamental documents. Having this on the Web is of tremendous value to people." Those who wish to have their names appear on the pages of the collection can visit the donations page of the Heritage Web Site and sponsor a page for only \$15.

To learn about the history and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador, see www.heritage.nf.ca.

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The Newfoundland Historical Society is proud to present the following events in Hampden Hall at the Marine Institute on the Ridge Road. Lectures begin at 8 PM. Please join us for refreshments afterwards. Watch for Symposium details in early March.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
February 26	Book Launch and Lecture <u>The Rule of the Admirals</u>	Dr. Jerry Bannister
March 25-27	Annual Symposium <i>The History of Health Care in Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	Watch for details in early March
April 29	Annual General Meeting and Lecture	Dr. Ron Rompkey

Jan 29, 2004

Hesketh Prichard
in Labrador

Larry Coady

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