

NHS Newsletter

Winter 2005

A publication of the
Newfoundland

Historical Society

Editor: Anita Best

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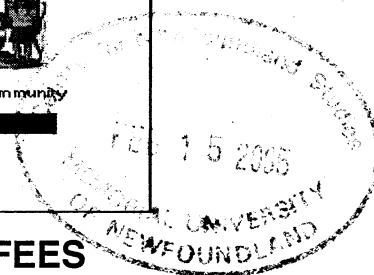
✉ nhs@thezone.net

www.infonet.stjohns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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



GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ARCHIVES FEES

At a news conference on January 14, it was announced that when The Rooms opens on June 29, 2005, everyone who uses the facility will have to pay a fee. This includes those who use the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador. At the time of writing, the fee structure has not been announced.

The N H S, in common with other heritage

groups, has always opposed any charge for access to public records. The Society opposed the imposition of a one-time registration fee, and is now campaigning against annual researcher fees. The charge may be small, but the principle is important - access to the province's public records, and to records which have been specifically donated to the province, should be

free.

The Provincial Archives does not present elaborate exhibitions, like the Provincial Museum and the Provincial Art Gallery. This is primarily a working space for students, genealogists, citizens who need vital information, and researchers of every stripe. It attracts many visitors from outside the province.

(continued on page 2)

President's Remarks—Terry Bishop-Stirling

Just a few lines to wish members a happy and healthy 2005. Inside this issue you will find our program update and news on a couple of our current initiatives.

The Newfoundland Historical Society, along with other heritage groups in the province, is currently protesting the application of user fees at the new provincial archives at the Rooms. You can see more on this in the article by Jim Hiller. We are, of course, also concerned that there has been no decision

announced on the future of the Colonial Building. The Executive will continue to push for an effective and appropriate use of this most important building.

We have another busy winter and spring planned. Please note the change in our regular winter schedule. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the last Thursday of March and our spring symposium will be in April. We are also cooperating with the Battle Harbour Heritage

Society to promote an excursion to Labrador next summer- see details inside.

The Society's office hours have been changed to accommodate the reduced hours at the Colonial Building. Please call before you visit.

As always we welcome returning and new members. Enjoy the newsletter and feel free to contact the Executive with any questions or concerns.

Archives Fees (continued from front page)

Researchers have free access to Canada's national archives, and to every provincial archive except our own. Free access is also the rule in the USA and Europe. The imposition of an access fee here is unique and retrograde.

The Newfoundland Historical Society urges members to lobby against archives access fees at PANL.

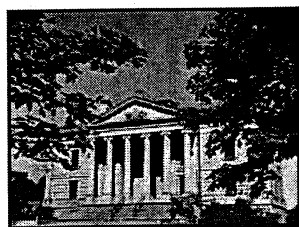
Please contact your MHA on this issue and, if you wish, write to the Honourable Paul Shelley, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Box 8700, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6 (pshelley@gov.nl.ca) as well as to the chair of

The Board of Directors, Dr. Priscilla Renouf, Archaeology Unit, Queen's College, Memorial University, St John's, NF, A1C 5S7 (mapr@mun.ca).

Mr. Dean Brinton takes up his position as Chief Executive Officer of **The Rooms** Corporation in June. Correspondence on this issue, or any issue regarding the three cultural institutions making their homes in that spectacular building may be addressed to him at P.O. Box 1800, Station C, St. John's, NL, A1C 5P9. or therooms@gov.nl.ca.

James Hiller

Have you renewed your membership in the Newfoundland Historical Society? We need your support to carry out our activities.



Due to the reduced public hours of the Provincial Archives at the Colonial Building, the NHS office hours have been changed. Please call before you visit.

PASSAGES

The Newfoundland Historical Society and the friends of Dr. Linda Cullum, Assistant Professor of Sociology and chair of the NHS Publications Committee, extend their deepest sympathy to Linda on the recent death of her father.

Call for 2005 Southcott Awards Nominations

The Newfoundland Historic Trust invites nominations for its annual Southcott Awards for built heritage preservation in Newfoundland and Labrador. Awards are normally considered for architectural restoration projects completed within the past three years, for buildings of any type which are 50 years or older. Awards may also be considered for excellence in long-term maintenance of heritage properties; for

new or infill construction which is sensitive to the historic context (architecture, streetscape, viewscape, etc.) of its environment; or for other noteworthy built heritage preservation projects.

More information and nomination forms are available online at www.historictrust.com/southcott or by calling (709) 739-7870. The deadline is April 15, 2005.



The Railway Coastal Museum on Water Street in St. John's was one of the winners in the 2004 Southcott Awards Competition

Letters from the Editor

Oral History is a Good Thing

I was delighted to read in *The Packet* out of Clarendville, January 24 issue, that a group on the Bonavista Peninsula are doing their bit to preserve our intangible heritage.

The TIP Performing Arts Association was so successful with their initial effort of recording information from the five Coves that their project has been extended to the whole Peninsula, helped on by the

good offices of HRSD. Twelve people are employed in collecting and transcribing a projected 1500 interviews. Well done yourselves!

Oral history allows young people to explore their community and to construct knowledge through that exploration. It builds communication and writing skills, as well as a sense of pride and identity.

Oral history projects done with contemporary informants help to make available current opinions and explanations "straight from the horse's mouth" so

that more voices are included in the historical record and oral history brings the younger generation and the older generation together, restoring a sense of community.

So why are there not more oral history projects undertaken in the Province's schools, particularly in the high schools where students are reportedly "very difficult to engage"?

Perhaps we need to show teachers how to train students to collect the history of their families, friend groups and communities. Isn't it time for an Oral History Institute in Newfoundland and Labrador?

Anita Best

Committee Reports

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The members of the 2004/05 Program Committee include Debby Andrews, Terry Bishop Stirling, Rosemary Healy, Jim Hiller, Willeen Keough, Bert Riggs, Jeff Webb and Maudie Whelan.

Our committee has been very busy this fall. We began the lecture series in September with the Entente Cordiale Symposium. The event was well attended in both St. John's and Corner Brook. Sponsors included Air Labrador, British High Commission, City of St. John's, Government of France, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Memorial University, and SSHRC.

Dr Willeen Keough, our October speaker, gave a very interesting lecture entitled "John Moxley Disinterred: Assertions of ethnic territory in 13th and 19th century Conception Bay." Willeen's lecture was sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's and the Basilica Museum.

In November we celebrated the launch of Dr. Peter Pope's book "Fish Into Wine: the Newfoundland plantation in the seventeenth century. Peter's book launch was jointly sponsored by Scholarly Book Services and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.

Most of our energy, this past fall, has gone into planning a spring

symposium on the subject of Responsible Government. We aim to have an out-of-town guest speaker on the first night, followed by a panel discussion the next evening. Saturday will be a day-long event, with many interesting lectures.

Over the past few years many of our sources of funding which we relied upon, are no longer available. Providing we acquire adequate funding, the April symposium on Responsible Government will go ahead. I hope to see you there.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Well, another year has rolled around and the Publications committee remains active in many facets of the NHS. (continued on Page 6)

In September we began with a symposium on the Entente Cordiale.



U.K. coin commemorating 100 years of Entente Cordiale

In November we launched Peter Pope's book.

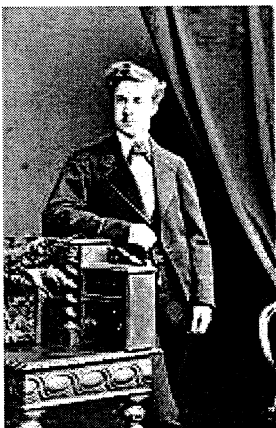


RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SYMPOSIUM

April 21-23

A great way to celebrate St. George's Day



Robert Bond as a young man

Robert Bond may have been Newfoundland's greatest political leader

Courtesy of the Memorial University Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archives

The next symposium offered by the Newfoundland Historical Society will be on the broad topic of Responsible Government.

Our yarry Program Committee are hard at work confirming the details, but they have allowed me to give you a small preview of what will surely be this spring's most erudite historical event.

Provided that we can raise the necessary funding, your Historical Society will present to you a program containing the following elements, among others: A Panel Discussion with former members of both the Newfoundland House of Assembly and the House of Commons—they will talk about their experiences (positive and negative) as elected representatives of the people; the rôle of the church in the granting of Responsible Government; discussions about who could vote and how that changed over the years; Responsible Government at the local level; the railway issue; and finally, papers on those poor folk who were "beyond the Pale" in Labrador and along the French Shore.

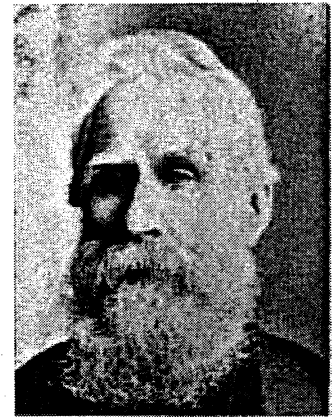
First Prime Minister

Philip Little was born in 1824 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to Bridget Costin of Dungarvan Co. Waterford, and Cornelius Little. He studied with Charles Young who had been active in obtaining Home Rule for PEI, becoming a solicitor in 1843 and a barrister the following year.

He moved to St John's in the 1840s, at a time when no Catholic lawyers were practising there. Little opened an office on Duckworth Street and obtained many clients as a barrister but the Lawyer's Incorporation Act prevented him from working as a solicitor. By 1846 he was an officer of the Benevolent Irish Society and assumed a prominent role in the Catholic community.

Having been elected to the House of Representatives three years before, Little was a member of a delegation sent to London in 1853 to put forward a case for Home Rule. This was granted in 1854. In the election which followed in 1855 the Liberals won 18 of the 30 seats and Governor Sir Charles Darling invited Little to form the new government.

In 1864 Little married Mary Jane Holdright of Dublin and two years later moved to Ireland to practise law. He died at Monkstown on October 21, 1897.



Philip Little, leader of the Liberal party in the 1850s, was the first premier of Newfoundland.



Richard Squires (1850-1940) His first government collapsed in 1923 after accusations of the theft of public monies.



Frederick Alderdice (1872-1936) He was Prime Minister from 1932 to 1934. (All photos courtesy NF Heritage Web Site & PANL)

Baccalieu Trail Archaeology Web Site

Archaeologist Bill Gilbert reports that the 'Other Places' segment of The Baccalieu Trail Archaeology Web Site has been expanded to include a piece on the seventeenth-century history of Carbonear.

Also, a new posting in 'New Discoveries' describes some of their preliminary findings based on Kathy Stewart's analysis of the faunal material (bones, teeth,

etc.) recovered from the Cupids site between 1995 and 2002.

In December 1030 bone fragments recovered from the Recent Indian hearth on Dildo Island were sent to Kathy for analysis. When her analysis is completed the results will be posted on the New Discoveries web site. Preliminary analysis so far indicates that both cattle and pigs were being raised (or at least

butchered) in Cupids in the second half of the seventeenth century and/or early eighteenth century.

To go directly to "Other Places" visit this link:
http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/other_places.asp

To go to "New Discoveries" visit:
<http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/discoveries.asp>

(Continued on page 7)

THE ROOMS will open on June 29, 2005

Uncharitably christened "the box The Basilica came in" by a local taxi driver, The Rooms is certainly more than a box. For the first time, our three most important provincial institutions will be under one roof, bringing together collections and exhibitions of historical artefacts, natural history, archival records, and contemporary visual art. The Provincial Museum, The Provincial Archives and the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador can finally boast of modern, world class facilities.

The Rooms will not only allow for greater presentation of the stories of this place, but will also provide enhanced opportunities for travelling exhibitions from national and international institutions.

Folklorists note that the

opening date falls on "Peter and Paul's Day", traditionally the day when Newfoundland fishermen set aside the proceeds of their day's catch for the Church.

As part of continued preparations for its move to The Rooms, the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) will further reduce its hours of operation. Effective March 1, PANL will be closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will remain open, with full service, on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., and on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

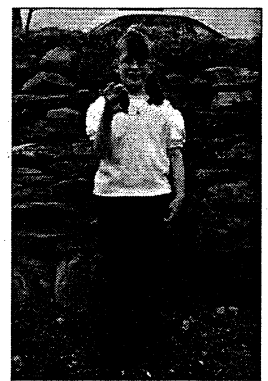
On March 1, the Cartographic Collection will close and on April 1, the Still and Moving Images Collection will close. Both collections

will remain closed to the public until PANL reopens at The Rooms.

Also on April 1, PANL will temporarily discontinue the service of conducting genealogical and nominal census record searches. This service will resume on September 1.

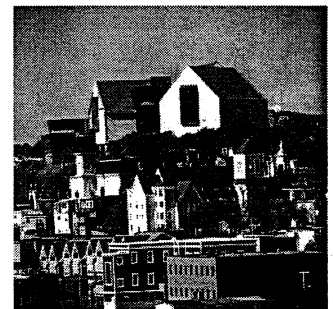
The full closure of the Provincial Archives will be effective May 1, when PANL closes completely to the public until the opening of The Rooms on June 29. All on-site research services, as well as all distance research services provided via e-mail, regular mail, telephone and fax will be suspended.

Further details regarding plans for the official opening will be announced in the coming weeks.



Courtney Murphy with the Recent Indian spear point she found by the Salmon Pool in South Dildo (from Baccalieu Digs web site).

THE ROOMS



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

Committee Reports (continued from page 3)

NHS Board

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Maudie Whelan

David White

Fred Winsor

For another year, Jeff Webb has been the able editor of "Aspects" in the *Newfoundland Quarterly*. Jeff works hard with authors to produce the great essays you see in each edition.

An organization such as ours would not be able to communicate so effectively with its membership without a newsletter to share interesting news and information. With much good will and spirit, Anita Best solicits items, gives feedback and edits the newsletter you are reading. Be sure to send in any items you want the rest of the membership to hear about! We'd be happy to include them in our next newsletter.

Thanks to both Anita and Jeff for their diligent efforts!

Joan Ritcey became our new webmeister this Fall, and those who make use of the NHA website for information on lectures or to order our publications, will see quite a few changes to the site.

It's streamlined, easier to navigate, and provides clear information for all.

Let us know what you think about the site:

<http://www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist>.

Of course, our publications continue to sell well and we urge you to pick up one or two for those little gifts you need

throughout the year.

Jim Hiller's *Confederation:*

Deciding

Newfoundland's

Future, 1934-1949,

and *The Beothuk* by

Ingeborg Marshall are

sure to please the

history buffs in your

crowd.

As a final note, the

Publications

Committee thanks

Melanie Martin for he

many and varied

services to the

committee during her

work in the NHS

office. We're thrilled

that she is remaining

on the NHS board!

We wish you all a wonderful 2005!

Linda Cullum, Chair

Adieu Melanie Martin-- Bienvenue Catherine Rice

During the autumn of 2004 our Office Manager, Melanie Martin, was offered a full-time job with The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and left her NHS position to take up new duties. She retains her interest in the Society and has agreed to join the executive, so we will continue to benefit

from her knowledge of office routine and Society history.

A strong candidate appeared for the Office Manager position. Catherine Rice, a local heritage and paper conservation worker, came very highly recommended and was

hired in October. She is very well-known to the heritage community, having held contract positions with both the Provincial Archives and Provincial Museum. Catherine is currently employed part time with the Basilica Museum as well as the NHS.

Beyond the Overpass—Corner Brook

The West Coast Historical Society was re-established in September 2002 with a newly elected board of directors led by Chair Elaine Watton

The Society has been mandated to hold four lectures per calendar year, February, April, September and November. The lectures are held at the Corner Brook Museum & Archives.

The two lectures held in the fall of 2002 were: Dr. Noel Murphy - "A Cottage Hospital Doctor - The Medical Life of Dr. Noel Murphy 1945 - 1954" and Dr. Michael Barkham who spoke on "The Spanish Basque Maritime World in the 16th Century".

The 2003 lecturers were:

Dr. Olaf Janzen "Eviction of French Fisherman from Newfoundland - 1755"; Rex Brown - "Britain's Ousted Colony - Canada's

Never Province"; Dr. Klaus Barthelemess's "Whaling & Sealing Worldwide", a partnership with SWGC; and Dr. Anthony Berger "Ella Manuel, Killdevil Lodge & the early days of Tourism in Western Newfoundland"

The first 2 speakers for 2004 were: Senator Laurier LaPierre who spoke on "How to be a Canadian" and Francoise Enguehard who related the "History of Francophones in Newfoundland & Labrador".

The WCHS has a following of approximately 40 - 60 people and each lecture sees a few new faces. By the interest shown in these lectures, the lack of a historical society on the west coast was definitely noticed!

The West Coast Historical Society has two more lectures in its 2004-2005 season.

Watch *The Western Star* for details about the February and April lectures as they become available.



Baccalieu Trail Site

(Continued from page 5)

The complete text of Henry Crout's letter to Sir Percival Willoughby written during the summer of 1613 has now been added to the "Journal Entries and Letters" feature of the Baccalieu Trail Archaeology web site.

This is the letter in which Crout describes his voyage into Trinity Bay in the summer of 1613, the Beothuk camp on Dildo Island and his encounter with the Beothuk.

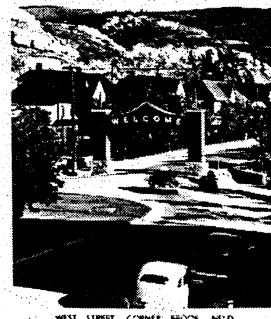
You can read this document by visiting this web site:

http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/journal_5.asp



The Corner Brook Archives and Museum,

This photo and the ones below are part of the Corner Brook Museum's collection.



WEST STREET CORNER BROOK, Nfld.

NHS Winter Lectures

The NHS Lecture Series continues with several more lectures this winter at Hampton Hall in the Marine Institute on the Ridge Road.

Thursday, February 24's presentation by **Dr. Christopher English** is entitled "What is to be Done About Failed Marriages?": The Supreme Court Recovers Jurisdiction over Marital Causes in 1948.

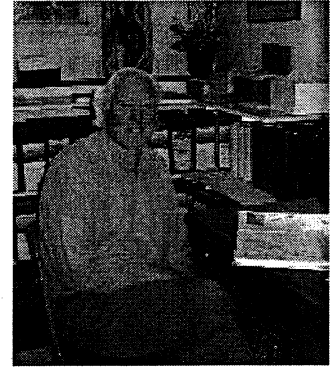
On March 31, the **George Story Lecture** will be given by Dr. John Mannion. His topic will be **Irish Migration and Settlement 1735-1765**.

On January 27, 2005, Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archivist **Bert**

Riggs was to have delivered a lecture on the renowned **Professor Danielle**. The lecture was entitled **Charles Henry Danielle: Professor of the Terpsichorean Arts**. Unfortunately, the weather was against us and the lecture had to be re-scheduled for May 27, extending the usual lecture dates by a month.

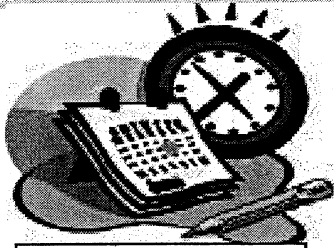
If you have any suggestions for lecture topics, we would be delighted to consider them. Just drop us a line, send us an e-mail, or even call the office when you have a spare moment.

We would also like to hear your views and any news you think would be of interest to our members.



Dr. John Mannion

"By the eighteenth century merchants and fisherman from the South East Region of Ireland were traveling regularly to Newfoundland for the fishing season. One contemporary account tells of "25 sailing vessels waiting at Passage East, in Waterford Harbour, for the tide to Newfoundland". Although the majority of these early migrants returned to Ireland for the winter, later in the century some began to overwinter in Newfoundland."



NHS Events Calendar

February 24

NHS Lecture

Place: Hampton Hall

Time: 8 PM

Dr. Christopher English

March 31

NHS Lecture

George Story Lecture

Place: Hampton Hall

Time: 8 PM

Dr. John Mannion

April 21-23

NHS SYMPOSIUM

Responsible
Government in
Newfoundland

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

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Membership Fees:

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

Donations to the Newfoundland Historical Society are always welcome

Fee _____ Donation _____ Total _____

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