

Spring 2014



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The Newfoundland Historical Society 1905 - 2014

Newsletter

Newfoundland Historical Society's Annual General Meeting



Frederick Smith, President of the Newfoundland Historical Society opening the Society's 2014 Annual General Meeting, May 1, 2014

At 8:00 p.m. on May 1st, 2014, the Newfoundland Historical Society (NHS) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Hampton Hall, Marine Institute.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Frederick Smith, who then presented the President's and Treasurer's Reports (see below). Following the Treasurer's Report, Past President, Larry Coady, presented the new Executive slate for 2014 - 2015. With the

exception of Mekaela Mahoney-Gulliver and Jim Hiller, all past executive members were up for re-election and a new person, Patrick Mannion, was added to the slate. The new Executive Committee slate was voted on by the members present and unanimously adopted. After the election of the New Executive Committee the AGM was adjourned.

President's Report 2013 - 2014

In 2013 - 2014 the Newfoundland Historical Society, in its 109th year, continued with its mandate to promote knowledge and public discussion of the history and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. A major component of our mandate is filled by our lecture series.

The 2013 - 2014 NHS lecture series included:

Dr. Karen Stanbridge *Thrift and Good Child Citizen: The Junior Thrifts Clubs in Confederation-Era Newfoundland.*

Ted Rowe *Ruptions in Heart's Content: A Dispute Resolution in a Newfoundland Outport.*

Dr. Paul Smith *A Mesmerizing Miscellany of Marvelous and Majestic Mummies: The Marketing of a Newfoundland Christmas Tradition. (Annual Gilbert Higgins Lecture).*

Anne Budgell *The Silver Highway - A Brief History of the Explorations of Labrador's Grand (Churchill) River.*

Dr. Amanda Crompton *Habitants, Soldiers, Sailors, and Servants: The History and Archaeology of the French in Placentia Bay, 1662 - 1714.*

Suzanne Sexty *James Vey: Photographic Journalist/Artist.*

Dr. Beverley Diamond *On Record: Toward A Social History of Audio Recording in Newfoundland and Labrador. (Annual George Story Lecture)*

In addition to the lecture series, the Program Committee has been organizing a Symposium to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I.

This year Allison Mercer, our office manager left for other employment and Christina Robarts joined us. Thank you Allison for your three and a half years of service to the NHS and welcome Christina.

After years as our volunteer accountant, Nancy Snedden stepped down from the board. We thank Nancy for all her work. Mr. Corey Button of Grant Thornton is our new volunteer accountant and we look forward to working with Corey.

Many people are needed to make the Society function and I thank the following:

Joan Ritcey and Linda White for co-editing *Aspects*, the Society's contribution to the *Newfoundland Quarterly*.

John Cheeseman for taking over as editor of *Aspects*.

Joan Ritcey for continuing to maintain the Society's web site.

Klaus Hye-Knudsen for building our membership management software.

Jim Hiller for chairing the Publications Committee and for being liaison with the *Newfoundland Quarterly*.

Heidi Coombs-Thorne for chairing the Program Committee and working with Terry Bishop-Stirling and others on the World War I Symposium.

Charles Stirling for taking over the editorship of the Society's Newsletter.

Allan Byrne for being Vice President and chairing the Office Committee.

Keith Butler for Audio Visual support at Hampton Hall.

I thank all the members of the Board who contributed in so many ways, always giving excellent advice. Special thanks go to Larry Coady for all his work as President for three (3) years and now as Past-President and Chair of the Nominating Committee.

I would like to thank the Marine Institute for the use of Hampton Hall and Memorial University of Newfoundland for supplying meeting space during renovation of Hampton Hall. I would also like to thank the Provincial Government for the Cultural Economic Development Program (CEDP) grant without which the Society would have great difficulty fulfilling its mandate.

Frederick Smith
President

Remember To Join The NHS!

Fill out the form on page 12 and visit nf.history.ca to find out how you can benefit!

Treasurer's Report April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Newfoundland Historical Society

Statement of Income and Expenditures

For the period March 31, 2013 to March 31, 2014



| <i>Revenue</i> | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 31 - Mar. - 2014 | 31 - Mar. - 2013 |
| Grant & Donation | \$9,466.00 | \$13,305.00 |
| Event Revenue | \$0.00 | \$1,222.00 |
| Membership Revenue | \$6,225.00 | \$8,855.00 |
| Publication Revenue | \$640.00 | \$2,361.00 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$150.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | |
| Total Revenue | \$16,481.00 | \$25,743.00 |
| <i>Expense</i> | | |
| Event Expense | \$534.00 | \$4,684.00 |
| Publication Expense | \$8,232.00 | \$7,932.00 |
| Payroll Expense | \$8,364.00 | \$5,339.00 |
| Insurance Expense | \$493.00 | \$934.00 |
| General & Administration Expense | \$3,674.00 | \$2,919.00 |
| | | |
| Total Expense | \$21,297.00 | \$21,808.00 |
| | | |
| <i>Net Income for the period</i> | <i>(\$4,816.00)</i> | <i>\$3,935.00</i> |

Recent Lectures

Anne Budgell



Three (3) authors of Labrador books at Anne Budgell's January lecture. (l-r) Larry Coady *The Lost Canoe*, Anne Budgell, *Dear Everybody - A Woman's Journey from Park Avenue to a Labrador Trapline* and Anne Hart, *The Woman Who Mapped Labrador*.

The Silver Highway - A Brief History of the Explorations of Labrador's Grand (Churchill) River.

Our January speaker was Anne Budgell who spoke on the history and exploration of Labrador's Grand (Churchill) River and visits to the mighty Grand Falls. The lecture was introduced by Anne Hart. John McLean is credited as the first European to view the Falls and he reached the gorge in 1839. Randle Holme pushed upriver in 1887 followed by two expeditions in 1891, one from Bowdoin College and the other led by Henry Bryant. Albert

Low arrived in 1894 and by 1900 'height-of-land' trappers from Lake Melville were making annual visits. Varick Frissell shot video of the falls in 1925 and Anne treated the audience to a showing. She also brought a lengthy map of the river illustrating geographic features and local place names. Anne recently authored *Dear Everybody - A Woman's Journey from Park Avenue to a Labrador Trapline*, the story of Barbara Mundy Groves who trapped along the Churchill River with her husband in the 1940s.

Suzanne Sexty

James Vey: Photographic Journalist/Artist

On the evening of March 28th the monthly Newfoundland Historical Society lecture series continued at Hampton Hall, Marine Institute. The guest lecturer, Suzanne Sexty, was introduced by Colleen Shea, of the Newfoundland Historical Society. Sexty's lecture, titled *James Vey: Photographic Journalist/Artist* was very entertaining and interesting. Sexty has been researching Vey, a contemporary of Robert Edward Parsons, for five (5) years and used some of her research



Suzanne Sexty presenting at Hampton Hall

materials, such as Vey's photographs, diary entries and anecdotal evidence to describe his work and personality. She noted that James Vey was a journalistic photographer, "a man of the streets" whose photographs portrayed Newfoundland from the 1890s to the 1920s. As well as being a photographer, Sexty described Vey as an artist, because his work included landscapes in addition to posed studio portraits, similar to painters in the 1800s. Despite the cold and windy weather conditions, Sexty's lecture was well attended and enjoyed by the audience.

George Story Lecture



Dr. Jeff Webb speaking on George Story and the Story Family

The 2014 Newfoundland Historical Society's Annual George Story Lecture, was held following the Society's Annual General Meeting, on May 1st, 2014.

Dr. Jeff Webb opened the lecture by briefly discussing George Story and his contribution to the cultural history of Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Webb also noted that besides George Story himself, other members of the Story Family have also made significant contributions to the cultural history of Newfoundland and Labrador, especially Janet Story who worked to preserve the history of nursing in the Province.

This year's George Story Lecture speaker was Dr. Beverley Diamond whose lecture was titled ***On Record: Toward A Social History of Audio Recording in Newfoundland and Labrador.***

Dr. Beverley Diamond was introduced to the audience by Dr. Meghan Forsyth. Dr. Diamond's lecture discussed some of the early examples of audio recordings in Newfoundland, noting that some of the early examples were of a political nature. Examples provided included; a gramophone speech by Sir Richard Squires, and the use of audio recordings by Joseph R. Smallwood. Dr. Diamond also noted some of Newfoundland's early musicians who showed an interest in audio recordings, namely Charles Hutton, Georgina Stirling, Johnny Burke and Gerald S. Doyle. Next, a series of graphs were presented on information such as Newfoundland's music genre, aboriginal recording scene versus the classical recording scene, and the diversity of audio recordings. This information was gleaned from the collection of over three thousand (3000) recordings located in the Memorial University of Newfoundland's Library. The lecture continued with an explanation of how recording studios represent a microcosm of the society within which they exist and how these studios help define an artist's sonic signature through the use of width (left to right), height (frequency range), depth (prominence backward and forward) and narrative (changes in the mix over time). Examples of audio recordings from various Newfoundland artists were presented to demonstrate their distinctive sonic signatures. The lecture, which was enjoyed by all, was followed by a lively discussion and question period.



Dr. Meaghan Forsythe introducing the 2014 George Story guest speaker



Dr. Beverley Diamond, the 2014 George Story Lecture guest speaker

In Memoriam

Dr. Arthur William May (1937-2014)

One of the Newfoundland Historical Society's (NHS) long-term members, Dr. Arthur William May, passed away in January at age 76. Art had an eminent scientific career, served as President of Memorial University from 1990-1999, and contributed to the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador heritage.

Educated at Bishop Field College, Art studied marine biology at Memorial (M.Sc.) and McGill (Ph.D.), and joined the Newfoundland Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in 1958. His primary research responsibilities were northern fisheries, including Labrador



cod and the interception of Canadian salmon at West Greenland. He served as Director of the Station between 1972 and 1975 after which he moved to Ottawa, advancing to Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in 1982. During his time in Ottawa, he chaired several international fisheries organizations including the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the Pacific Salmon Commission.

Between 1986 and 1990 Art headed the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and served on the Prime Minister's National Advisory Board on Science and Technology. Both during and after his Ottawa career, Art held several national and international executive positions with associations and boards. He was heavily involved with matters of cultural importance, such as the two-hundred-mile limit and the cod fisheries, and he demonstrated his interest in the social and economic development of the province by serving, for example, with the Atlantic Innovation Fund. He was a board member of the Canadian Museum of Nature, which developed his knowledge of the presentation of science for the public and his interest in the architecture of museums. For these and many other leading scientific and administrative roles, he received several awards, including an honorary degree from Memorial in 1983 and appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada in 1995.

Though Art spent a great deal of his working life writing action plans, task force reports and negotiation decisions, he had an enduring interest in reading about and discussing Newfoundland and Labrador. He was proud to be a Newfoundlander, had an intimate knowledge of the province and never missed a chance to expose visitors to the culture and history of Newfoundland and Labrador. Art was a loyal follower of heritage events (at Cupids in particular) and never missed an NHS symposium at St. John's or around the province. Interested in the preservation of heritage to the end, one of Art's last contributions was his perceptive comments and influence on a committee looking to build a military museum in the province.

The Society extends its sympathy to Sonia (Mrs. May) and to his family and friends.



Janet Story (1923-2013)

One of the Newfoundland Historical Society's (NHS) greatest friends passed away just before Christmas. Janet Story had a remarkable and influential nursing career, including serving as the General Hospital Director of Nursing from 1963 to 1981. Aside from her profession, Janet loved history (including the history of nursing) and gave a large part of her life to heritage work. She was a founding member of both the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL)

and the Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives. She served on the executives of Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANL), Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA), the Historic Trust and the Memorial University Botanical Garden. Janet was a fervent supporter of local institutions such as the Newfoundland Museum, the provincial Art Gallery, the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). She received many accolades for her contributions to all aspects of NL culture, notably an honorary degree from Memorial in 2004, the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2005 and a Newfoundland Historical Society Heritage Award in 1997.

Janet always had time for historians and history students, who called upon her at her ancestral home on the Southside Road, to hear her first-person accounts of nursing practice and the Newfoundland hospital system. She was a Renaissance woman, knowledgeable in science, music, art and architecture, offering poetry readings in her home, cooking fine meals based on old family recipes and working in handicrafts. She was always beautifully turned out in tweed suits and hats, agate broaches and tartan shawls. She was flamboyant, straight-forward, funny with an ironic sense of humour, athletic and strong. Over the years, Janet rarely missed a NHS lecture. Some of us got a good idea of her strength when she fainted from the heat at Hampton Hall one evening about seven (7) years ago. An ambulance was called but she refused it and, feeling better, went back to hear the end of the lecture. Since the death of her brother George Story in 1994, the Society appreciated her attendance at the Society's annual George Story Lectures, as the senior family representative. Janet was a member of the NHS from girlhood and kept up that interest her whole life, even naming the Society with a bequest in her will. The Society extends its sympathy to her sister, nephews and nieces and many friends, including NHS friends, to whom her death is a great loss.

2014 Rockwell Kent Centennial in Newfoundland and Labrador



If you look across the waters of Brigus you will see a mysterious and lonely cottage, snuggled into the shelter of the stark north shore of Brigus. The cottage is variously known as Kent Cottage, Landfall, or simply “Jake’s Place”. It was built around 1800 by the Pomeroy family. Though the family moved out of the community of Brigus long ago, the cottage survived and has had many strange and interesting occupants over the years. Rockwell Kent, its most notorious occupant, stayed there in 1914-1915. Kent’s beautiful but achingly sad oil painting *The House of Dread* depicts the much-beloved cottage in a mood that differs starkly from the joy experienced by those who

followed. These include Albert Edward Harris, an English artist, who came to Newfoundland to manage a paper mill, and retired to Landfall in 1929, and Bradley J. (Jake) Folensbee, Jr. who acquired Kent Cottage at Landfall in 1953, and made an annual pilgrimage from Seattle to Brigus almost every summer for over 50 years until his death in 2004.

Thanks to Jake’s legacy, The Landfall Trust, a registered Canadian charity, came into being. The Trust was established to ensure the conservation of the cottage and its surrounding property at Landfall, and to manage its use to support the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador. Each year the Landfall Trust offers residencies to artists and writers, and organizes various other events to fulfill this mandate. You may find more information about the Trust and the property at the Landfall Trust website: www.landfalltrust.org.

Since the year 2014 is the 100th anniversary of Kent’s move to Newfoundland, the Trust sees this occasion as a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of Landfall by commemorating the remarkable contribution of Rockwell Kent to the arts world, and acknowledging his time at Landfall. In partnership with The Rooms, the Trust has worked on presenting an exciting slate of activities which will be held at The Rooms and in Brigus from the end of May to early August.

POINTED NORTH: ROCKWELL KENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

This summer-long (May 31 to September 21, 2014) exhibition of Kent art and memorabilia is the anchor event and will be held at The Rooms and curated by Caroline Stone. The exhibition’s title is part of a quote from *It’s Me O Lord: The Autobiography of Rockwell Kent*, describing how he first set out for Newfoundland: “If minds can become magnetized, mine was: its compass needle pointed north.”

CENTENNIAL OPENING EVENTS

The Opening Events take place at The Rooms from May 30 to June, 8. Presenters include curator Caroline Stone and Kent documentary film maker Frederick Lewis.

- Friday, May 30, 2014: 1:00 - 5:00 PM, Screening - Rockwell Kent: A Documentary film by Frederick Lewis at The Rooms Auditorium. Frederick Lewis, the creator of this powerful documentary, will be in attendance. The Washington Post called this two-part 170 minute labour of love, “a sweeping, detailed, visually rich portrait of a man who emerges as a complex, compelling and finally contradictory force of nature...”
- Friday, May 30, 2014: 7:30 PM, Opening Reception - *Pointed North: Rockwell Kent in*

Newfoundland and Labrador at The Rooms.

SYMPOSIUM

Various local, Canadian and American speakers will present on Kent's art, the history of the period in Newfoundland and Kent's time here, including Dennis Costanzo, Frederick Lewis, Robert Rightmire, Richard West, Kevin Major, Edward Roberts, Will Ross, Caroline Stone, Constance Martin, Peter Neary and Jake Wien.

- Saturday, May 31, 2014: 10:00 – 11:30 AM at St. George's Heritage Church, Brigus, *Through the Artist's Eyes* will include two speakers discussing the influence of Newfoundland/Brigus/Landfall on Kent's art; and 1:00 – 4:00 PM guided tours of Brigus and Kent Cottage.
- Sunday, June 1, 2014: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM *Rockwell Kent—Larger than Life* includes presentations in St. John's at The Rooms auditorium, with a series of speakers giving talks on Kent's art and his time in Newfoundland and Labrador, in the context of the art history of the province.
- Wednesday, June 4, 2014: 7:00 PM, Evening Talk – *The House of Dread* with Dennis Costanzo at The Rooms; this talk will cover the history behind Kent's famous painting, *The House of Dread*, a moody and powerful depiction of the still-standing Kent Cottage at Landfall, Brigus, Newfoundland where Kent lived in 1914-15.
- Sunday, June 8, 1:00 - 5:00 PM, second screening - *Rockwell Kent: A Documentary* at The Rooms Auditorium.

FIGUREHEAD REPLICA

The Landfall Trust has commissioned Newfoundland artist and wood carver Vince Jones to carve a replica of the wooden figurehead that Kent installed at the cottage in 1914. It will be unveiled at Kent Cottage at Landfall in Brigus on Rockwell Kent's birthday with a public Open House, June 21, 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

LITERARY EVENTS

These sessions will explore Kent's appearance in words - works of fiction and his autobiographies.

- Wednesday, July 23, 2014: 7:00 - 9:00 PM Rockwell Kent in Fiction Literary Panel at The Rooms Auditorium, in which three authors (Michael Winter, Jane Urquhart, Mack Furlong, with Eleanor Wachtel as interviewer / moderator) will discuss the appearance of Rockwell Kent as a character in their works of fiction.
- Saturday, July 26, 2014: Literary Outing to Brigus with guided tours of Brigus and Kent Cottage from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and Readings by the same authors 2:00 - 4:00 PM at St. George's Heritage Church.
- Wednesday, July 30, 2014: 7:00 PM at The Rooms Auditorium: Rooms educator Jason Sellars and curator Caroline Stone will read from Rockwell Kent's autobiographies, and give a tour of the exhibition *Pointed North: Rockwell Kent in Newfoundland and Labrador*.

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOPS

St. Michael's Printshop will partner with the Landfall Trust to host two workshops, one for adults and one for young people, ten (10) participants in each, in early August, in Brigus.

For further details on content, presenters, times, venues and prices visit http://landfalltrust.org/kent_centennial3.php.

Newfoundland Historical Society is on Twitter



You don't have to actually tweet to enjoy the Newfoundland Historical Society's twitter account. You can contribute, or just listen in to retrieve information on current events, monthly lectures, annual symposia and much more. It's easy to create an account. Just type "nfhistsoc twitter" into your search engine and follow the link to join up!

Articles

Do you have a short but interesting historical article, or an announcement of a historical related event that you would like to see included in the Newfoundland Historical Society's Newsletter?

If so, please send it by email to nhs@nf.aibn.com

Articles should be in Word format with graphics attached as separate files. Due to limited space please restrict articles to 500 - 1000 words.

All articles published will be at the discretion of the Executive of the Newfoundland Historical Society.



Historical Tidbits

Ethel Dickinson Monument

The Ethel Dickinson monument, located in a grassed area near Cavendish Square St. John's, was erected by the citizens of St. John's, in recognition of the contributions of Ethel Dickinson and all women to the War effort.

In 1918, when a deadly Spanish Flu epidemic struck St. John's, emergency facilities were set up and a call went out for volunteer nurses. Ethel Dickinson, who had earlier volunteered as a para-nurse in England as part of the war effort, answered the call and was placed at the King George V Institute. On Oct. 24th Dickinson was diagnosed with the flu virus and died two days later.

There are four inscriptions on the monument:

West Side: *This shaft, surmounted by the world emblem of sacrifice is set up by a grateful public in memory of Ethel Dickinson volunteer nurse who in the Great Epidemic of 1918 gave her life while tending patients at King George the Fifth Institute St. John's.*

East Side: *In honor also of those who nursed with her in the "imminent shadow of death".*

South Side: *And I will give thee a Crown of Life.*

North Side: *Be thou faithful until death.*

Obituary.

ETHEL G. DICKINSON.

We exceedingly regret to have the chronicling of the passing of Miss Ethel G. Dickinson, at the age of 33 which sad event occurred this morning at the Seamen's Institute. The deceased lady had but recently volunteered for nursing influenza cases, and was herself taken down with the disease on Thursday. So sudden and fierce was the attack that, with but a few hours exception just prior to dissolution, she never rallied, but entered into her eternal reward at 9.45. Miss Dickinson was formerly a student of the Methodist College, afterwards taking a position on the teaching staff, which she held for many years. Subsequently she went to Canada, taking a graduate course in Domestic Science at the MacDonald College, Guelph, Ontario. Returning to St. John's, Miss Dickinson conducted the Domestic Science School, the only inter-denominational institution in Newfoundland, being under the supervision of the three Superintendents of Education. The number of friends of the deceased lady is legion. She was very popular and in all circles took a prominent place. To her father, Mr. G. H. Dickinson, sisters, Mrs. E. L. Pinsent, City, Mrs. P. D. Duff (Violet, late of the Montreal General Hospital) and brother, Harry, the **Telegram** extends the sympathy which will be universally expressed.

Evening Telegram Oct. 26, 1918

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____
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Membership Fees: Regular or Institutional \$40.00 / Life \$400.00. Membership entitles you to 30% off Heritage Canada Membership.

Note: Membership includes a subscription to the Newfoundland Quarterly and three Newsletters per year, and is valid for 12 months from the date of payment of the fee. Your expiry date will appear on the bottom left of your mailing label, the figures on the bottom right are a mailing code.

Donations are always welcome! And remember that memberships make a great gift. Gift cards are available from the NHS office.

Would you like to save paper and receive our newsletter electronically (in colour)? Y ☐ N ☐

Would you like to be added to our list to be notified of upcoming events? Y ☐ N ☐

Would you like to be removed from the list of those receiving notification of upcoming events? Y ☐ N ☐

Fee _____ Donation _____ Total _____

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Payment may be made by VISA, cheque or money order to the Newfoundland Historical Society. Please send this form with your payment to the address below. USA subscribers please pay in US funds to cover postage. International subscribers please pay 19 pounds sterling or Canadian equivalent.

Newfoundland Historical Society

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