

NHS Newsletter

Fall 2004

A publication of the  
Newfoundland  
Historical Society

Editor: Anita Best

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NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Newsletter

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



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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)

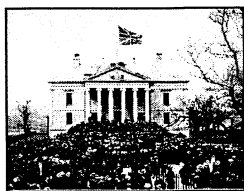
## President's Remarks

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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?*

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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:*



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

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**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.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Itturibalzaga, 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](http://www.oldferrole.com) for items of historical interest, the conference schedule and other information.*

## 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**

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

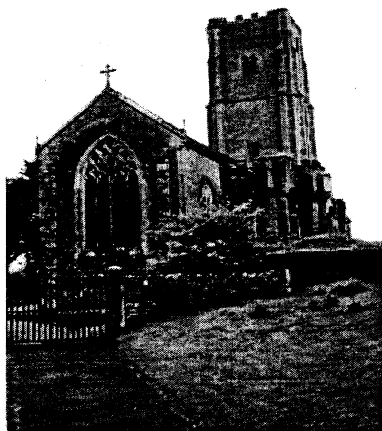
*It is also a site visited by Captain James Cook in 1764, while mapping the coasts of Northern Newfoundland.*

*Below is a photograph of the remains of Basque Flakes.*



**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.

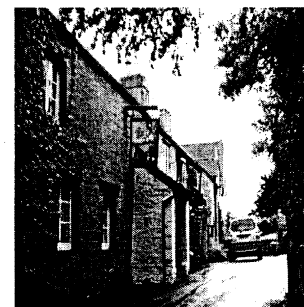
William went to school at first in Totnes, to the ancient King Edward VI Grammar School. He would walk the three miles by road and footpath along the course of the Hems, a small stream feeding into the river Dart. Later he was sent to a private school at Newton Abbott, eight miles away, which would have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

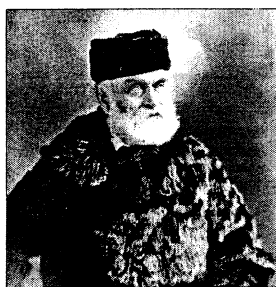
**Editor's Note:**  
The above article and photos were submitted by Professor E. David Morgan of Keele University, Staffordshire, England.



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

