

Spring 2008

EXECUTIVE

President:

Melanie Martin

Vice President:

Larry Coady

Past President:

Terry Bishop-Stirling

Treasurer:

Nancy Snedden

Councillors:

Vicki Barbour

David Bradley

Gordon Bradley

Terry Carlson

Larry Dohey

Allan Dwyer

Betty Jerrett

Glenn Keough

Martha MacDonald

Mekaela Mahoney

Robert Parsons

Cathy Rice

Joan Ritcey

Fran Warren

Jeff Webb

Doug Wells

Sandra Wheeler

Mike Wilkshire

OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR:

Allan Byrne

**Questions, comments,
letters to the Editor and
membership inquiries
may be addressed to:**

NHS Office

P.O. Box 23154

Churchill Square

St. John's, NL

A1B 4J9

(709) 722-3191

(709) 739-6458

email:

nhs@nf.aibn.com

Internet:

www.infonet.st-johns.nf.

ca/nfldhist

The Newfoundland Historical Society

1905-2008



Newsletter

2008 AGM

The NHS' annual general meeting was held prior to the George Story Lecture in April and was conducted with the customary speed and efficiency. It took about 10 minutes! The usual reports were circulated and approved, and a new Executive elected. The new one is a lot like the old, except that Debby Andrews is now taking a rest. She will be sorely missed; we all knew that when Debby agreed to do something, not only was it done, but often by about 9.30 am the next day. It is taking two new additions to fill her shoes: Vicki Barbour and Mekaela Mahoney; welcome to both!

2008 Symposium: "TO EACH HIS OWN – 100th Anniversary of the Formation of the Fishermen's Protective Union", 30-31 May 2008.

Continuing the tradition of holding a free symposium once in a while on a topic of broad general interest, the NHS is this year partnering with the The Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation Inc. to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the FPU. The event will be held in The Factory, Port Union. Details of how to get there can be found at <http://www.historicportunion.com/en/gettinghere.html>.

The full programme details are contained inside. We are hopeful that this event will attract a good crowd, so please be aware that while there is a range of accommodation available in the area, it would be wise to make a reservation early. Please note too that tickets for the lunch and banquet must be pre-purchased – these are available from the NHS office (see details opposite). Why not take advantage of the opportunity to extend your stay and see some of the other sights in the area?

The programme includes papers on Coaker and the FPU by scholars in the field, including our former Lieutenant-Governor Edward Roberts, and personal accounts from local inhabitants of what it means to live in a union town. A tour of the community is also included. For background on Coaker, see the virtual exhibit at http://www.mun.ca/mha/fpu/fpu_1.php. And for Port Union, go to <http://www.historicportunion.com/en/foundation.html>.



FPU premises, Port Union, pre-1920. From Coaker's *History of the Fisheries Protective Union of Newfoundland*, p.7.

“TO EACH HIS OWN”
100th Anniversary of the Formation of the Fishermen’s Protective Union
 The Factory, Port Union, Newfoundland
 May 30-31, 2008

FRIDAY, May 30, Evening

7:00	Information desk	11:40-12:00	<i>Disillusionment in the Later Coaker</i> Questions and Comments
7:30	Welcome/Opening Remarks - Sir William F. Coaker Heritage Foundation - Newfoundland Historical Society	12:00-2:00	Lunch book launch – <i>To Be My Father’s Daughter</i> Educational Resource Development Cooperative

SATURDAY, May 31

7:50	Terry Bishop-Stirling <i>Setting the Scene</i>	Afternoon Session Session Chair – David Bradley	
8:15	Heritage Award presentation and reception	2:00-2:25	Jessie Chisholm <i>The Response of the FPU to the Sealing Disasters of 1914: an illustrated presentation</i>

SATURDAY, May 31, Morning Session

9:00-9:15	Welcome by NHS President (Melanie Martin)	2:25-3:00	Community Panel – <i>Life in a Union Town</i> Harold Coaker Russell - Betty Mason - Cornelia Sweetland - Millie Johnson
	Session Chair - Larry Coady		
9:15-9:40	James Hiller <i>Uncomfortable Alliance: Bond, Coaker and the 1913 Election</i>	3:00-3:20	Questions and Comments
9:40-10:05	Desmond McGrath <i>More Than Just a Union</i>	3:20	Closing remarks – NHS President (Melanie Martin)
		3:30-5:00	Community Tour

Evening

10:05-10:25	Questions and Comments	7:30	Banquet (MC - Joan Ritcey)
10:25-10:50	Nutrition Break		
	Session Chair – Terry Carlson		Banquet Speaker – Patrick O’Flaherty
10:50-11:15	Edward Roberts <i>The Regulations and William Coaker</i>		<i>After ‘The Great Debacle’: Newfoundland 1934-1939</i>
11:15-11:40	Sean Cadigan <i>The Dark Side of Populism: Nativism and</i>		

Recent Books by Members

In future we would like to make a regular feature of providing details of books recently published by NHS members. Some have already been highlighted by recent lectures. Here are a few others:

Coady, Lawrence: *The Lost Canoe*. Nimbus Publishing, 2008. An account of the Prichard expedition of 1910 in Labrador. Book launch 7pm, Downhome Store, Water Street, May 15.

Greene, John: *Bridging Atlantic Waters*. St. John's: Triumphant Explorations. A history of the Henley family of Devon and Newfoundland. & Labrador.

Morgan, Bernice: *Cloud of Bone*. Toronto : Knopf Canada. A novel.

Rose, George A.: *Cod : an Ecological History of the North Atlantic fisheries*. St. John's: Breakwater Books.

Congratulations to all the authors! Please let us know the details if you are aware of others.

Newfoundland and Labrador Studies (NLS)

NLS is a bi-annual, interdisciplinary journal publishing original essays about the society and culture of Newfoundland and Labrador, past and present. It is edited by our own Jeff Webb. See <http://www.mun.ca/nls/toc/current.php> for details of the most recent edition on music in the province with a remarkable list of contributors.

Fall lecture series

The Programme Committee already has in place the following series of lectures for Fall 2008:

25 September: Derek Wilton - *Oscar Lieber's trips to Labrador and observations of the 1860 eclipse*.

30 October: panel discussion and book launch of the *Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador* published by the NHS

27 November: Jeff Webb - *The Voice of Newfoundland - a history of the Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland* (book launch)

All lectures will be at 8.00 pm in Hampton Hall at the Marine Institute, Ridge Road, St. John's. Please note that the titles are a general indication of the topic and subject to change.



Neil Rosenberg after giving the 2008 George Story lecture, *Studying Vernacular Music in Newfoundland: The MUNFLA Song Title Index*, with Janet Story.
Photo: Nathan Penney.

Thanks to our speakers for 2007-8!

The NHS would like to express its sincere appreciation to all of the speakers for the past season who so kindly volunteered their time and expertise, allowing us to offer a very varied and interesting fall and winter program of lectures with topics spanning the entire province. They are: Peter Armitage, Kevin O'Reilly, Ted Rowe, Ron Rompkey, Keith Mercer, Raoul Andersen and Neil Rosenberg.

Keep an eye on Cupids!

Excavations at Cupids are producing interesting results: wine bottles from the 17th century and a gravestone from the 18th century. See <http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/discoveries.asp> for details.



Cook's Landing: St. Alban's, Bay d'Espoir, Newfoundland.

Cradled away in the inner mountains of the South Coast of Newfoundland lies rich soil, sparkling clean water, thick healthy forest and land rich in natural resources – Bay d'Espoir. Captain James Cook would discover this extraordinary place as he mapped Newfoundland for Britain during the 1760's, and wonder at its amazing potential.

Captain Cook did the first survey of the Bay d'Espoir area around 1765. During his travels along the South Coast of the Island, he described Bay d'Espoir's forest as having "great and plenty of all sorts of wood, common to this country...". (Captain James Cook, Logbook, 1766, 18)

The Town of St. Alban's, in partnership with its Heritage Society, has captured Cook's thoughts of the area by developing "*Cook's Landing*" in the heart of the community. The history of Ship Cove, now called St. Alban's, is depicted in a number of interpretation pieces on Cook's adventures as he sails into the community. Cook's Landing is located on Birchy Point in St. Alban's, the exact spot where James Cook had repairs done to his ship before continuing on with his work in charting the coast of Newfoundland.

Doug Wells

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Membership Fees: Regular \$28 / Life \$400 / Institutional \$24 / Student (no Quarterly) \$15 **Donations are always welcome!**

Fee _____ Donation _____ Total _____

Visa Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

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 on the front page. US subscribers please pay in US funds to cover postage. International subscribers please pay 18 pounds sterling or Canadian equivalent.

NHS Office, P.O. Box 23154, Churchill Square, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J9