

Spring 2011

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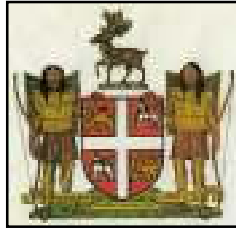
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# The Newfoundland Historical Society 1905-2011



## Newsletter

### The French Shore Historical Society

The French Shore Historical Society is a non-profit organization that was initiated in 2000. Since the moratorium in 1992, the communities of Conche, Croque, Grandois and Main Brook have been hit with many economic hardships. Within these communities, there were remnants of a past that was being forgotten. A group of women from the area realized that they had a unique heritage and wanted to preserve it for future generations as well as to share with others. With the desire to keep their communities in existence and assistance from the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, they began the French Shore Historical Society. The FSHS consists of an Executive Committee, whose current officers are: President Alice Flynn, Vice-President Gary Carroll, Secretary Austin Dower and Treasurer Ethel Patey. There are additional regular members from each member town and two seasonal staff, Colleen McLean and Joan Simmonds.

The society oversees the French Shore Cultural Centre, Casey House Artists' Retreat, a Basque Chaloupe and two heritage structures in Conche. The Centre houses a permanent exhibit entitled "Quest for Cod" and the French Shore Tapestry. As well as having a travelling exhibit that showcases their product, the society is responsible for historic site developments and their preservation. They also have a visitor centre, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century naval cemetery in Croque.

Over the past number of years, the French Shore Historical Society has overcome many obstacles. This has been due in no small part to the partnerships they have made along the way.



French Shore Interpretation Centre, Conche



Unveiling of plaque by French Ambassador in the Croque naval cemetery



Croque naval cemetery: celebrating the unveiling

Photos by Candace Cochrane

The residents of each of the communities, QLF, Service Canada, ACOA, Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat of NL, Nordic Economic Development Association, Sacred Heart School, Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Archive Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and various departments of MUN are a few of the stakeholders that have been involved in the initiatives undertaken by the Society. *French Shore Historical Society*

## AGM REPORT

The NHS Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the April lecture. The usual reports were presented, and an Executive Committee was elected. There are few changes. Terry Carlson has retired, and we thank him for his input and support. A new regional member has been added, Jim Miller, representing Bonavista, whom we welcome to the team. *Note: Larry Coady, President, was unavoidably absent, and his report will be available on our website as well as included with this Newsletter.*

## NHS WEBSITE MOVED

The St. John's Infonet, which has hosted the NHS website in the past, has now ceased operations. We have found a new home however, and suggest you bookmark the new address: <http://www.nlhistory.ca/>.

## OFFICE MOVE

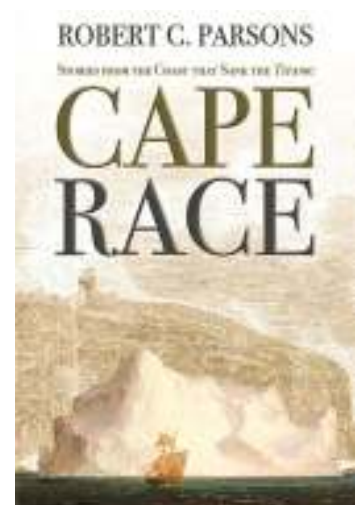
In our last issue we reported that the NHS office was moving, but we are still at the same location. We expect to be moving at some stage, but do not know when that will be. In the meantime, you can find us on the ground floor of Elizabeth Towers (entrance from the parking lot on the west side) and the Archives remain open to researchers, preferably by appointment.

## NEW BOOK FROM ROBERT PARSONS

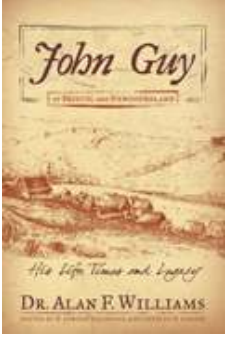
Long-time NHS member and prolific author Robert C. Parsons has produced another book, published by Flanker Press. *Cape Race: Stories From The Coast That Sank Titanic* has gone to press and will be available in mid-May.

Cape Race is a wild and rugged coastline, but in the days of our forefathers who tried to get their schooners and steamers past the currents and fog, it was death-dealing. It generated so many stories, so much human struggle, so much devastation along the "Calamity Coast" that Robert has put them into perspective by looking at one of history's greatest sea disasters, HMS *Titanic*.

*Cape Race: Stories From The Coast That Sank Titanic* – with 280 pages and 46 stories (several more sub-stories), scores of human interest tales and many illustrations, maps, photos, crew lists, diagrams – will augment and tie together our province's connection with Cape Race, the light keepers, *Titanic*, and our seafaring people.



## JOHN GUY OF BRISTOL AND NEWFOUNDLAND



You may recall the presentation by Gordon Handcock and Chesley Sanger at the Cupids symposium last year on this topic where they spoke of their work to complete an unfinished book by the late Alan Williams. *John Guy of Bristol and Newfoundland: His Life, Times and Legacy* by Dr. Alan F. Williams, edited by W. Gordon Handcock and Chesley W. Sanger (Flanker Press: St. John's, 2011), is now available in bookstores. It is heartening to see that these two MUN geographers have succeeded in saving the work of a former colleague for posterity.

### RECENT SPEAKERS



Caroline Lambert, our February speaker



Peter Armitage, our April speaker

## THE NHS STORY LECTURE

This year's George Story Lecture on March 31 was a lot of fun. After an introduction by Mark Ferguson, and acknowledgement of the members of Dr. Story's family who were in attendance (his sister Janet Story and his sons Lachlan and Simon), Dr. Gerald Pocius presented a lecture on "Newfoundland's material culture and the rise of Heritage" to an audience of 75.

Dr. Pocius put forward his theories on the idea of heritage -- Parks Canada's presentation of historic sites, the birth of heritage events and storyboards, and Tourism's use of those glorious images of Newfoundland and Labrador we see in ads. He observed that Newfoundlanders were the original minimalists (who saw acquisitions of material goods as sinful) and put forward the idea that 'heritage professionals' were the new priesthood. With beautiful shots of NL interiors and exteriors, he showed the changes in townscapes and stated a memorable heritage aphorism "The sign of the times is the sign". The manufactured material history site was compared to professional wrestling - it might be fake but it is entertaining. Overall an excellent, thought-provoking lecture, based on Dr. Pocius' 40 years of collection and analysis. The members in attendance were moved by the quality of the ideas presented and kept the question period going for a long time afterwards. *Joan Ritcey*



Janet Story with Gerald Pocius

## NHS/CHF DUAL MEMBERSHIP

We have recently introduced a small change in the procedure for taking out joint membership in the Newfoundland Historical Society (NHS) and the Canadian Heritage Foundation (CHF). The change is purely administrative, and the fees remain as before. From now on, anyone who takes out a NHS membership is entitled to receive a promotion code valid for a reduced rate on membership in the CHF.

## YOUNG TOKEN COLLECTOR SEEKS ASSISTANCE

Our office recently received an enquiry from Darryl Atchison of Ireland on behalf of his nine-year-old son James who is collecting wooden tokens. He is hoping that some of the members of the Newfoundland Historical Society might remember wooden tokens from the province and might be able to help him locate some for James' collection. James is having a lot of fun collecting the tokens and he is learning a lot about Canadian history and geography at the same time. If you can be of any assistance, please contact them directly, by email at [atchisondf@gmail.com](mailto:atchisondf@gmail.com) or by regular mail at the following address: Darryl and James Atchison, 2 Willow Close, Ballea Woods, Carrigaline, County Cork, Ireland.

## LECTURES AVAILABLE ONLINE

If you go to our website and look under Past Lectures, you will see that the Christopher Pratt lecture appears as a hyperlink. Click on it, and you will be taken to the text version of his talk. Also, Peter Armitage's April 2011 lecture was filmed, and we are hoping to make a video version available there too. Where possible, we will attempt to have future lectures online as well.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:** Regular or Institutional \$35 / Life \$400 *Note: we have had to increase regular membership to meet rising costs; however, our fees still compare favourably to those of similar organizations. In addition, instead of running from January to December, memberships are now valid for 12 mos. from the date of payment of the fee. Your expiry date will appear at 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 great gifts; gift cards are available from the NHS office.**

- Would you like to save paper and receive our Newsletter electronically (in colour)?
- Would you like to be added to our list to be notified of upcoming events?
- Would you like to be removed from the list of those receiving notification of upcoming events?

Please check the relevant box(es).

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.**

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