

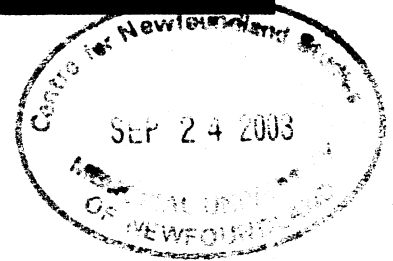
Dan Greene's Stable, Tilting, Newfoundland

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Newsletter



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



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### NHS Newsletter Summer 2003

This is a quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historical Society. Questions, comments and membership enquiries may be addressed to:

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Visit our web site:  
[www.infonet.stjohns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist](http://www.infonet.stjohns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Historical Society members,  
The Society is all ready for a new lecture year. We start off on September 25 with Dr. Andrew Cook, Archivist and Head of Division with the British Library. This year's programme includes two symposia in 2004: one in St. John's in March on the history of health, and a more general history symposium at Bay Roberts in June. More information will be available on these symposia in the next NHS Newsletter.

The Department of Tourism, Recreation and Culture is gathering information on and ideas for the future use of the Colonial Building. I attended a recent meeting of interested parties asked to give input into the plan. The department considers the Society a stakeholder in the building and a group that is sympathetic to the building's history. Many good ideas were brought forward that would keep the building's history at the forefront.

The Society is helping its affiliate, the Association of Heritage Industries (AHI), plan a conference on the sustainability of heritage services, programmes and operations in our communities. It will be held over October 3-4-5, 2003 and is geared to people working/volunteering in heritage fields, planning for municipalities and tourism. The cost to attend is \$50.00. Relevant and interesting lectures and workshops will be offered. For more information and to register for this conference, visit the MANL web site: [http://www.manl.nf.ca/conf\\_prog.htm](http://www.manl.nf.ca/conf_prog.htm)

Our pamphlet series remains popular and we are gratified to have to reprint Jim Hiller's Confederation and the papers of our 1997 "Cabot and his

World" symposium. As usual, copies will be available for purchase from the office and from the membership desk on lecture nights.

Our happy connection with the Newfoundland Quarterly continues. Like clockwork, the new issue has appeared. We hope you will consider giving Newfoundland Historical Society memberships to friends and family who will obtain the double benefit of membership and a Quarterly subscription.

If you visited the office lately, you might have noticed that we have more of our Office Manager, Melanie Martin. The Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA) and the Society were successful in a joint SWASP application to hire Melanie for the whole Summer for 34 hours a week.

Have any of you seen the new TV show called "History Detectives" on PBS, Mondays, 9:30-10:30? It is a reality show that requires researchers to solve historical mysteries using archival documents. Perhaps it will do for history what the TV show C.S. I. did for criminology, i.e. make it Hollywood cool.

We note with sadness the passing of long-time Society member, Gordon Winter. Society members will know of his connection to many important issues and events during the twentieth century in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I hope I'll see you at the lectures.

Joan

## TILTING: PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL HERITAGE

This year has been a wonderful year for the town of Tilting on Fogo Island in Notre Dame Bay. It has received two heritage designations within almost as many months.

On June 21st 2003, Ruth Canning, Chair of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, an-

nounced that the Town of Tilting is the province's first district to be designated of provincial historical significance under recent legislative changes.

The Heritage Foundation chose Tilting as the first heritage district under its new legislation because the community has a collection of important buildings

### The Newfoundland Historical Society Board

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**Office Manager**

Melanie Martin

Our office is open from 9:30 AM to 4PM on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Messages may be left on the answering machine, or by email. Research inquiries will be answered during office hours only.

Please call the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (737-7475) for reference help at other times.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### TRACING FIRST USES

First usages of words are handy facts to frame a historical discussion, as the reference to "the term Newfoundlander" shows on the opening page of the Spring NHS Newsletter.

Before 1982 the reading program of the *Dictionary of Newfoundland English* turned up Griffith Williams's 1765 quotation "the number of the West Country and Newfoundlanders."

Since 1982, at least, masses of printed data

have become available for anyone curious about early occurrences of words. One example is the CD-ROM version of the Oxford English Dictionary. There readers can find a 1611 antedating of the Williams employment of Newfoundlander: "COTGR. Terre-neufiers, New-foundlanders, new-foundlandmen."

Thus a bilingual dictionary, by Randle Cotgrave, uses the term as a translation of a French word which had come to the editor's notice, a reminder that in the early era the French were

active fishermen in island waters.

A number of databases like that of the *OED* can also be searched for possible first examples of pivotal historical and economic terms useful to researchers in Newfoundland. Among these are American Memory (The Library of Congress) and Making of America (University of Michigan).

*William J. Kirwin*  
June 2003

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my dismay at the condition of the Colonial Building in St. John's, particularly the front steps and front walls.

As a genealogical researcher, I have frequent occasion to visit the Provincial Archives housed in that building, and this summer I have had to "run the gauntlet" between rows of young people sitting on the steps, eating, talking loudly, using profane language and boisterously roughhousing with one another. It is often a daunting prospect

just to get into the building. Arriving early in the morning, before the clean-up crews have had a chance to tidy the place, I have often encountered broken glass on the steps and graffiti on the walls. I notice that the skateboarding that probably takes place during the evening hours has broken the edges off the bottom step.

As a member of the Historical Society, I know that the heritage community has been urging Government to take action regarding the Colonial Building so that it can be-

come a showpiece for Newfoundland's political history. Are there plans in the works to place security guards in the building on a 24-hour basis? What will happen once the Provincial Archives moves into The Rooms next year? Are we going to see this venerable building gradually falling into neglect?

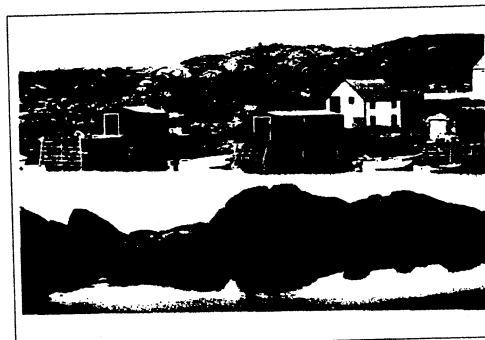
*Name withheld by request*

*Ed. Note: We hear via the grapevine that Government has big plans for the restoration and upkeep of the Colonial Building. Watch for details in future issues.*

### TILTING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and landscape features related to the inshore fishery, such as flakes and stores, which are still in use today.

Tilting has one of best remaining landscapes relating to the inshore fishery. The community was first settled in the early 1700s .



Fish flakes, stages and wharves in Tilting

# Tilting National Historic Site of Canada

On the east coast of Fogo Island, in Notre Dame Bay, lies the fishing community of Tilting. This site is a rare surviving example of a Newfoundland outport in which the use of its landscape components has been very largely maintained from at least the mid-18th century, when its Irish settlers first began to shape them.

Once a thriving outport, Tilting's population has waxed and waned according to the success of the cod fishery. Its landscape reflects adaptations of Newfoundland outport settlement patterns, both in its family neighbourhood clusters around the

harbour and in its extensive and remarkable "gardens," or fenced-in fields, variously located adjacent to their owners' houses or more often in clusters, some distance away. These gardens, located where there was topsoil or where it could be built up and fertilized, are surrounded by wooden fences and were used for growing root crops or hay. This process of developing fenced-in fields, "or taking in the land," was an important part of outport development in Newfoundland.

In addition, Tilting is a rare example of an outport community which retains a virtually complete range of the

traditional buildings and spaces associated with Newfoundland's inshore fishery, and their traditional relationships. This includes not only folk houses and agricultural outbuildings, but also fishing structures such as stages and flakes that now, within Newfoundland, survive only on Fogo Island. Also retained in Tilting are the traditional interrelationships of buildings – houses and outbuildings, and spaces – the gardens, cod trap berths along the coast, and winter and summer paths, or trails.

*Canadian Heritage*

## NHS COMMITTEES

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## Office News

### Membership:

As of July 23, 2003, membership stands at 590 and approximately 43 members have not yet renewed. A few months back a motion was passed that the NHS membership year would now coincide with the calendar year. Therefore, membership will be up for hours in the fall.

If you would like to make arrangements to come down to the office please call 722-3191 or email [nhs@thezone.net](mailto:nhs@thezone.net).

### Reference Questions:

Since July 2002 – July 2003 there have been approximately 60 visitors, 80 telephone enquiries, and over 200 email/mail enquiries.

**New Look:** The office has been slightly rearranged and

a new desk/work station has been purchased and assembled to house the new computer we purchased last winter. It makes for a much more effective working area for the office person and frees up more space for researchers.

**Office Hours:** The office is in the basement of the Colonial Building, accessible through the main doors of



the Provincial Archives. For the month of July, the office was opened Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 4:15 pm. In August, working with the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives, we managed to increase the hours of Melanie Martin, our office manager (pictured to the left) who did a great deal of work re-vamping the office and streamlining our operations.



### Editor's Note

Do you have news, upcoming events, or opinions you'd like to share? We welcome your letters and submissions to future issues of The NHS Newsletter. If you have an article to contribute to one of the regular columns, please contact the NHS Office at the address on the front cover. We look forward to hearing from you.

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### Publish Your Work in Aspects

The NHS is soliciting manuscripts upon any aspect of the history of Newfoundland and Labrador for *Aspects*, the quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historical Society inside the Newfoundland Quarterly.

Manuscripts of 3500 to 5000 words must be appropriate for a popular audience and contain a limited number of endnotes.

Authors are encouraged to supply appropriate photographs or illustrations when possible.

Submissions may be sent to Jeff Webb, Newfoundland Historical Society, Colonial Building, Military Road, St. John's, NL, A1C 2C9

**Recommended reading:**  
*For Dona Maria's Story: Life History, Memory and Political Identity*, by Daniel James (Duke, 2000)—a wonderful life history that raises very important questions for oral history and proposes a set of brilliant answers

## BEYOND THE OVERPASS

I was fortunate enough yesterday (Sat., July 26) to attend a very significant ceremony commemorating an important part of our Newfoundland outport history: *Parks Canada* in an elaborate program unveiled a beautiful plaque commemorating the national historic significance of *The Newfoundland Outport Nursing And Industrial Association*, called **NONIA**. A reception followed the ceremony with approximately 100 people in attendance.

This becomes the only National Historic Site on the south Coast. I'm sure the plaque will be prominently and proudly displayed in the picturesque little town of Pool's Cove.

Pool's Cove has a long history as an outport nursing station (1920s onward) and knitting and weaving groups were formed as well to help pay for the wages of the nurses who were mainly British. A locally built loom of the early 1900s still exists there and there are still knitting groups in Pool's Cove as well.

Recognizing NONIA in Pool's Cove as a piece of our National Heritage seem to be very fitting indeed.

*Doug Wells*



Michael Clair, Director of Culture, and others unveiling the plaque commemorating NONIA in Pool's

## HERITAGE NEWS

Leida Finlayson, former General Manager of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, battled cancer until slipping peacefully away in the presence of her family Saturday afternoon, July 19, 2003 in St. John's. She was 31 years old.

In memory of her life, her spirit, and her contribution to the Newfoundland Historic Trust, the Trust and the Finlayson family are proud to establish the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship, which will be

directed to a student of history or political studies, will be presented annually as part of the Trust's Southcott Awards and St. John's Day Celebrations.

Donations to the scholarship can be made payable to Newfoundland Historic Trust, PO Box 2403, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 6E7. Donation forms can be found online at [www.historictrust.com](http://www.historictrust.com)

### AHI Summer Update 2003

The Heritage Planning Guide for Natural and Cultural Heritage Projects has been recently completed by AHI. It is a 14-module guide, which is a tool kit for groups that are involved with or are planning community based heritage initiatives. AHI coordinator, Jerry Dick recently completed a series of workshops around the province to provide an overview of the Heritage Guide.

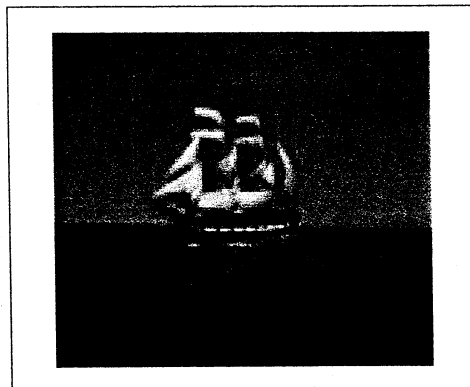
AHI's Heritage Conference SUSTAINING HERITAGE AND COMMUNITIES is being held on October 3-5<sup>th</sup> 2003 in conjunc-

tion with the AHI and MANL annual general meetings.

The provincial cabinet has decided to maintain the integrity of the Colonial building as a heritage structure. A comprehensive plan is currently under development for the restoration and management of this venerable building. Plans are in progress for a public Open House session during which input from the public will be sought. Watch for announcements about this Open House and plan to attend.

# IRISH FAMINE VESSEL IN ST. JOHN'S

Although most of the Irish who emigrated to Newfoundland did so before the 1840s, elsewhere in Canada and the United States, the major influx of emigrants arrived later on vessels such as the Jeanie Johnston. Between 1848 and 1855, the Jeanie Johnston made 16 voyages to North America, sailing to Quebec, Baltimore and New York carrying more than 2500 hopeful souls to new lives in the New World, without losing a single passenger or crew.



The Jeanie Johnston under full sail off New Brunswick

Under the auspices of the Irish Newfoundland Partnership and the Irish Newfoundland Association, the **Jeanie Johnston** will be in St. John's, Newfoundland from Thursday, October 16 through to Monday, October 20.

She will be berthed at Pier 9, St Johns Harbour, near the tourism railcar and will be open for tours from Friday, October 17 to Sunday, October 19 between 10.30 AM and 6.00 PM.

She will then prepare for her return transatlantic voyage to Ireland

and will depart on Thursday, October 23. During her stay, special events are planned throughout the city, including a concert on Monday, October 20 at the MUN School of Music with celebrated Irish sean-nos singer Aine Ni Chealleagh. For details of the voyage of this remarkable vessel, visit the official web site: [www.jeaniejohnston.com](http://www.jeaniejohnston.com)

## NEWFOUNDLAND BISHOPS DECLARED NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT

**Ottawa, September 2, 2003** – The Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today announced 11 new designations of national historic significance. Made on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), the designations include places, people and one event.

"These designations reflect Parks Canada's ongoing commitment to build the System of National Historic Sites of Canada and to fulfill its mandate to preserve and maintain the commemorative integrity of our protected heritage areas," said Minister Copps.

Five designations announced by the Minister commemorate places of national historic significance, another five involve people, and one commemorates an event.

Three of these designations went to Newfoundland: Bishop Edward Feild, Bishop Anthony Fleming and the town of Tilting.

*Canadian Heritage Press Release*

**Editor's Note:** The nominations to the Department of Canadian Heritage for Bishop Field as well as Bishop Fleming were made by local historian, Dr. John Fitzgerald and were accompanied by informative articles about the lives of both men, and their contributions to Newfoundland society.

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### Newfoundland Studies Makes Special Offer to NHS Members

*Newfoundland Studies* is an interdisciplinary journal based in Memorial University's Faculty of Arts, which has been publishing since 1985. Its issues include essays on a wide range of subjects, documents, review articles, book reviews, and an annual bibliography. Some issues are devoted to special themes, such as the latest issue (17:2) which is devoted to 18<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland and Labrador. Volume 14:2 was a special issue on Confederation. For more information about the journal, see [www.mun.ca/nflds/](http://www.mun.ca/nflds/)

*Newfoundland Studies* is pleased to offer to members of the Newfoundland Historical Society who are not already subscribers a chance to buy the *next four issues* at the preferential rate of \$24.00 - a considerable saving over the newsstand price.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please complete the form below and mail it *by October 31, 2003*, together with a cheque for \$24.00 made out to the Newfoundland Historical Society, to the NHS Office (address on front page).

YES, I would like to subscribe to the next four issues of *Newfoundland Studies*, and enclose a cheque for \$24.00.

Name: .....  
Mailing  
address: .....  
.....  
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I require a receipt .....  
I do not require a receipt .....

