

Winter 2009

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The Newfoundland Historical Society

1905 - 2009



Newsletter

Congratulations to Bill Gilbert!



This illustration by Matthäus Merian dated 1628 (from Theodor de Bry, *America*, pt. XIII, edited by Matthaues Merian, Frankfurt: Caspar Rötel) was for many years thought by American scholars to show early contact with aboriginals in the northeastern United States; it has been widely used to illustrate the early history of Jamestown, Virginia. In an article recently published in *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, Bill Gilbert has made international news by demonstrating that in fact it is a scene in Trinity Bay showing John Guy's men trading with Beothuk Indians! Several key details are to be found in Guy's account of a meeting between "Master Whittington" and Francis Tipton and a group of natives: the canoes with four Indians in each, the waving of a white wolf skin on a pole, the gift of a chain of leather and periwinkle shells, etc. See <http://www.cupids400.com/english/news.htm> for further details.

In addition, we have just learned from Bill that the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology will be holding a conference, "Exploring New World Transitions", in St. John's on 14-20 June 2010, the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the Cuper's Cove plantation. See <http://www.spma.org.uk/> for details and call for papers.



L-r Jim Hiller, Shannon Lewis-Simpson, Jeff Webb, Peter Pope, Terry Bishop-Stirling & Iona Bulgin, at the recent launch of *A Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador*.

Lecture Series, Winter 2009

All lectures are at Hampton Hall at the Marine Institute, Ridge Road, St. John's, at 8.00 pm.

Thursday 29 January 2009: Heather O'Brien – *Pre -Confederation Women Writers and Mythologies of Empire*

Thursday 26 February 2009: The First Gilbert Higgins Lecture: Allan Dwyer - *British Imperial Identity and the Newfoundland Irish Threat, 1740 – 1800*

Thursday 26 March 2009: James Feehan - *Smallwood, Pearson, and the Power Corridor Through Quebec*

Thursday 30 April 2009: George Story Lecture and Annual General Meeting. Speaker to be announced – watch our web page for details. Note: we pride ourselves on conducting the business of the AGM in about 10 minutes, and plan to do the same this year!

If you know a friend or family member who supports the aims of the NHS but hasn't been involved with the Society up to now, please consider giving them a membership.

Newfoundland Historical Society Symposium, 2009

May 21-22 at St John's and May 23-24 at Brigus.

Perhaps you've read about Celebrate Bartlett 2009 in the newspapers. The major event of the province-wide celebrations will be the visit of the old ice ship, the Bowdoin, which will visit several ports around the island and Labrador. And the NHS will be part of this important heritage event.

Ten speakers, including Jennifer Niven, Lyle Dick, Susan Kaplan, Hans Rollmann and Capt. J. Broderick will present talks on Capt. Bob Bartlett, the Bartlett family in Labrador and Brigus, navigation in Arctic waters and other aspects of Capt. Bob's story over the first 3 days of the symposium. There will be receptions after each evening lecture and tours of the town of Brigus on the Sunday. We hope to have a bus available for people who would like a drive from St. John's to Brigus. The Saturday in Brigus will be an all day event - lunch will be \$20 and supper \$30. We expect quite a crowd will come out for these events and we hope you will be there too. More details will be forthcoming during the winter, on the website and at NHS lectures.



Captain Robert A. Bartlett (from the *Newfoundland Quarterly*, vol IX, no. 4, March 1910)

A Word About Fees

The NHS is presently experiencing some financial difficulties, and, like everyone else, we are having to look at all our expenses very closely.

Membership fees cover the calendar year, beginning on 1 January in the year in which they are paid. The annual fee is \$28.00, which has not increased for years. This includes a subscription to the *Newfoundland Quarterly*, three editions of our *Newsletter*, and a 20% reduction on books bought through the NHS. We think that this is extremely good value. It is membership fees that allow us to maintain our office and Archives and to fund our mandate: bringing good quality history to the public through lectures, symposia and publications, and lobbying for history in the schools. Without this revenue we would be unable to continue operations (see our website at www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/nfldhist for fuller details of all that we do).

This year as a pilot project we have made available a new option: a joint membership in the Newfoundland Historical Society and the Heritage Canada Foundation (see heritagecanada@heritagecanada.org). For \$50.00 you can now enjoy all the benefits of both organizations, including the magazine *Heritage* and, if you are travelling to Britain, Australia or the U.S., free access to the many wonderful National Trust properties. If you have already renewed your NHS membership at the regular rate, you can upgrade it to this joint membership simply by sending us \$22.00.

One problem that we have had is that our membership lists have been somewhat cumbersome to consult. We have now made efforts to streamline that process, to simplify verification of who is a paid-up member and who is not. In the past some members may have continued to receive copies of the *Newfoundland Quarterly* and the *Newsletter* for a while even though their membership was not up to date. The NHS cannot continue to bear the cost of this period of grace. From this point forward, if your membership has lapsed we will be unable to pay for you to receive either of these publications.

Subscriptions to the *Newfoundland Quarterly* are of course sold independently of NHS membership, at a fee of \$25.00. There have been a few cases where members thought they were paying for NHS membership, when in fact they were simply taking out a subscription to the *Newfoundland Quarterly*. If you paid \$25.00, it was for a subscription only. If you paid \$28.00 (or the \$50.00 joint fee with the Heritage Canada Foundation), it was for NHS membership including the subscription. And don't forget that for \$400, you can have a life membership.

Our society has now been in existence for over a hundred years, and we would like to continue for many more, but we cannot do so without your support. If you have already renewed, many thanks. If not, please do so as soon as possible.

Speakers from our Fall 2008 lecture series



Whitney Lackenbauer, our
September speaker



Derek Wilton, our
October speaker



Jeff Webb, our
November speaker

In Memoriam: Gordon Bradley

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Gordon Bradley of Bonavista on 10 December 2008 at the age of 78. A long-time member of the NHS, member of our Executive Committee, and recipient of our Heritage Award in 2006, his work in the field of heritage conservation was extraordinary, and he will be greatly missed. We extend our sincere condolences to his family. Donations may be made in his memory to the Town of Bonavista (for the Garrick Theatre Capital Campaign), P.O. Box 279, Bonavista, NL, A0C 1B0.

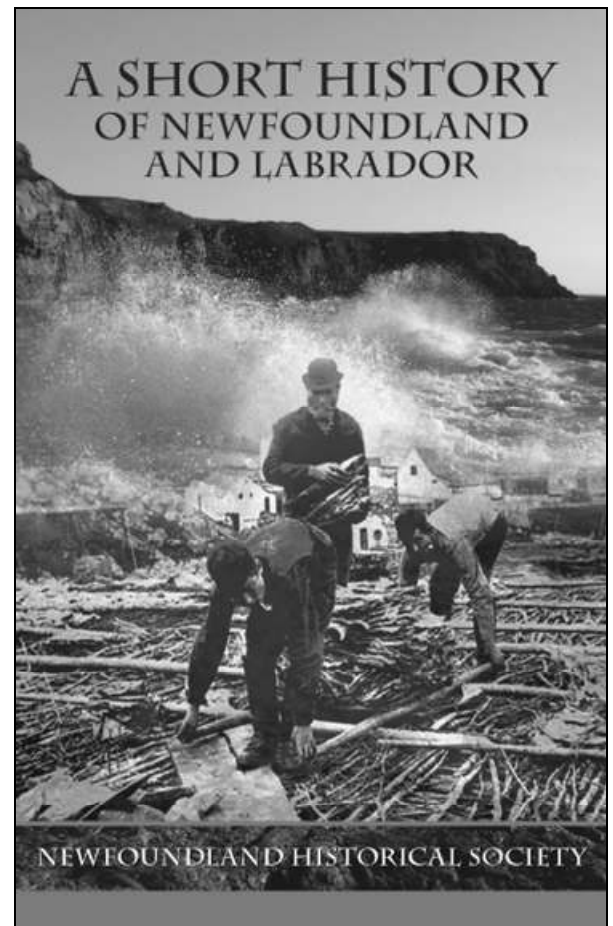
It's launched!

Our long-awaited *Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador* is now available in stores! It traces the growth of human settlement from Aboriginal pioneers to the current era. This is a lively, informative volume written by professional historians and intended for the general public. The authors, all faculty members at Memorial University, are:

- Chapter 1: Lisa Rankin - Native Peoples from the Ice Age to the Extinction of the Beothuk (c. 9,000 Years Ago to AD 1829)
Chapter 2: Peter E. Pope - Newfoundland and Labrador, 1497-1697
Chapter 3: Olaf U. Janzen - The "Long" Eighteenth Century, 1697-1815
Chapter 4: James K. Hiller - The Nineteenth Century, 1815-1914
Chapter 5: Terry Bishop-Stirling and Jeff A. Webb - The Twentieth Century

The book has a preface by Jeff Webb, a glossary, an epilogue by James Hiller, suggestions for further reading, and maps by Toby Simpson. Managing Editor: Shannon Lewis-Simpson.

This is a book that will appeal to both local residents and visitors, and makes an ideal gift. Price: \$19.95. (A 20% discount is available to members for purchases made through the NHS office.)



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

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Membership Fees: Regular \$28 / Life \$400 / Institutional \$24 / Student (no Quarterly) \$15 / Joint NHS-Heritage Canada Foundation \$50
Donations are always welcome!

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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 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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