

Winter 2014



The Newfoundland Historical Society 1905 - 2014

Newsletter

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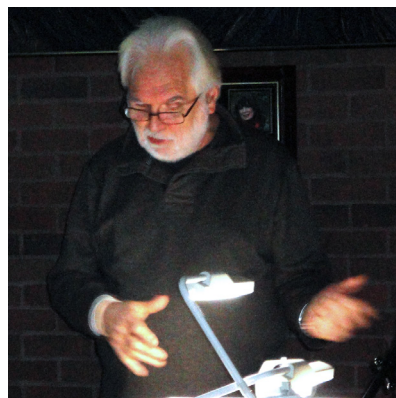
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Upcoming Lectures

- Jan. 30 Anne Budgell** *The Silver Highway: A Brief History of The Exploration of Labrador's Grand (Churchill) River.*
- Feb. 27 Dr. Amanda Crompton** *Habitants, Soldiers, Sailors, and Servants: The History and Archaeology of the French in Placentia Bay, 1662-1714.*
- Mar. 27 Susanne Sexty** *James Vey: Photographic Journalist/ Artist.* (See abstract page 6)
- Apr. 24 Dr. Beverley Diamond (Story Lecture)** TBA

Lectures will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Hampton Hall at the Marine Institute on Ridge Road. Cancellations due to poor weather will be posted on the CBC Storm Centre web site at cbc.ca/nl.

Annual Gilbert Higgins Lecture



Dr. Paul Smith

On the evening of November 28, 2013, the Newfoundland Historical Society (NHS), in collaboration with the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANL), co-hosted the annual Gilbert Higgins Lecture at Hampton Hall, Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The evening was opened by Fred Smith, President of the NHS, followed by an overview of Gilbert Higgins by John Griffin, Vice-President of MANL. The guest speaker,

Dr. Paul Smith, was then introduced by Mr. Jeff Webb of the NHS.

Dr. Smith, gave an entertaining and interesting presentation titled *A Mesmerizing Miscellany of Marvelous and Majestic Mummies: The Marketing of a Newfoundland Christmas Tradition*. Dr. Smith's lecture discussed the

commercialization of the mummering tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador. Throughout his presentation, a collage of images ran in the background, displaying a mesmerizing number of commercial items produced, both past and present, and all based on the mummering theme.

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion with the audience asking a number of questions.

Project Funding Proposal

The Newfoundland Historical Society (NHS) has submitted an application to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for funding of “*The British Empire is at War*”, *Newfoundland and Labrador Mobilizes for the First World War, 1914*, Project, Oct. 2-4, 2014.

The First World War has been described as a watershed in Newfoundland and Labrador’s history, and it is still remembered and commemorated with great reverence. It was the first time that Newfoundland asserted itself on the international stage, contributing to the empire’s war effort as a colony with responsible government. There was great enthusiasm at the start of the war, and Newfoundlanders and Labradorians were eager to participate. But the financial and human cost was significant and the battlefield experiences tragic. The war changed the colony forever and left a substantial lasting legacy.

The proposal includes a symposium and lecture series with five (5) objectives, coinciding with the Province’s “Honour 500” First World War Commemorations: to recognize the various **Anniversaries** related to the First World War in Newfoundland and Labrador’s history; to contribute to the continuing **Education** and public awareness of the history; to create a lasting **Legacy** of the history; to make the history accessible to everyone via province-wide **Outreach** and by collaborating with other organizations; and to encourage new **Research** on less know areas of Newfoundland and Labrador’s First World War Experience.

Six (6) experts have been confirmed so far to participate in the symposium, including the esteemed Professor Sir Hew Strachan of the University of Oxford as the keynote speaker. A number of other speakers have also been confirmed with presentations on a variety of subjects related to Newfoundland and the First World

War.

Keep checking the NHS Website, Twitter, Facebook and Newsletters for additional details as they become available.

Newfoundland Historical Society is on Twitter



You don’t have to actually tweet to enjoy the Newfoundland Historical Society’s twitter account. You can contribute, or just listen in to retrieve information on current events, monthly lectures, annual symposia and much more. It’s easy to create an account. Just type nfhistsoc twitter into your search engine and follow the link to join up!

NHS Welcomes Corey Button CA



The Newfoundland Historical Society (NHS) is pleased to welcome Mr. Corey Button CA, who has kindly agreed to volunteer his professional services as the Society’s Accountant.

Mr. Button is a Senior Manager of Tax Services

at Grant Thornton, LLP, and a Chartered Accountant (CA). He has worked in public practice for over twelve (12) years providing services to a wide range of entities including local, national, and multi-national companies in both the public and private sectors.

The Society is keenly looking forward to working with Corey as our new accountant.

Past Presidents of the Newfoundland Historical Society

by
Fred Smith

The Newfoundland Historical Society’s mandate is to promote knowledge and public discussion of the history and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador, through free public lectures, publications, public symposia, heritage awards, and advocacy work.

The Newfoundland Historical Society is the oldest, non-profit, independent heritage organization in the province. The Society inherited its name from the Historical and Statistical Society of 1881. The present organization dates from 1905.

Since 1905 the Society has been blessed with many excellent Presidents, all of whom tirelessly promoted the Society and made it the success it is today.

Following is a list of Past Presidents:

1905 - 1914	Canon William Pilot
1914 - 1918	No activity during WWI
Dec. 3 1918 - Jan. 1919	Canon Smith
Feb. 1919 - 1933	H. W. LeMessurier
Jun. 10 1933 - 1951	Hon. Vincent P. Burke
1951 - 1963	Chief Justice R. R. Furlong
1963 - 1965	No meetings
1966 - 1968	J. R. Smallwood
1968 - 1970	Leslie Harris
1970 - 1972	G. Rex Renouf (died in office)
1972 - 1973	Rupert Bartlett (served remained of Renouf's term)
1973 - 1975	Melvin Rowe
1975 - 1978	Paul O'Neill
1978 - 1981	George Story
1981 - 1984	Shane O'Dea
1984 - 1988	Shannon Ryan
1988 - 1990	Gordon Handcock
1990 - 1992	Barbara Crosbie
1992 - 1994	Malcolm MacCleod
1994 - 1996	Patricia O'Brien
1996 - 1998	Jim Hiller
1998 - 2000	David Bradley
2000 - 2002	Eleanor Dawson
2002 - 2005	Joan Ritcey
2005 - 2007	Terry Bishop Stirling
2007 - 2010	Melanie Martin
2010 - 2013	Lawrence Coady

Abstract
**Habitants, Soldiers, Sailors,
and Servants: The History and
Archaeology of the French in
Placentia Bay, 1662-1714**
by
Dr. Amanda Crompton

The French establishment of a colony in Newfoundland would fundamentally alter the nature of the French presence on the island. Prior to the colony's founding, the French presence in Newfoundland had been a seasonal one only, in which the French fishers who had come to the island's shores stayed for the summertime only. Any overwintering was likely unintentional. But with the advent of colonization, in Plaisance (now Placentia) in 1662, the French presence changed substantially. Colonization continued to bring seasonal fishermen to Plaisance, but they now shared space in the harbour with the permanently-resident owners of fishing plantations (or habitants). Colonization brought an administrative presence to the colony as well, and so Plaisance was home to the first garrisoned fortification in Newfoundland, as well as civilian colonial administrators. Plaisance quickly grew to be the largest settlement in French Newfoundland, as well as the most important administrative, economic, and military centre for the French on the island. Settlement outside of the colony grew after 1662, and we see the spread of small, family-based fishing settlements into Placentia Bay in particular after this time. Though small and poorly documented, these settlements were nonetheless an important part of the French experience in Newfoundland. French permanent residence was more or less brought to an end with the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, as the French were subsequently prevented from living on the island permanently. This presentation will explore what we know of the history and archaeology of the resident French in Newfoundland--the habitants, soldiers, sailors, and servants, who all made Placentia Bay their home--and what happened to them after they were forced to leave.

Remember to joint the NHS!

Fill out the form on page 4 and visit nf.history.ca to find out how you can benefit!

“Aspects” Request For Article Proposals

If you have a draft, manuscript, or even an idea you’re still researching on Newfoundland history, and have thought of submitting it for publication, this may be your chance.

“Aspects” is a publication of the Newfoundland Historical Society, appearing in the *Newfoundland Quarterly* since 1978, and its contributors, from a wide variety of backgrounds, have brought readers original articles and essays of interest.

If you think your work may fit this category, then “Aspects” would like to know about it. Send along a short description (no more than 250 words or so) of what you have and we’ll consider it. Include what the topic is, how you think it fits the mandate of “Aspects” and the NHS, and if you know of any illustrations or photos that could accompany it. Do not send a manuscript. Send along your proposal only to John Cheeseman, the editor, at j.cheeseman@mun.ca.

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Membership Fees: Regular or Institutional \$40.00 / Life \$400.00. Membership entitles you to 30% off Heritage Canada Membership.

Note: Membership includes a subscription to the Newfoundland Quarterly and three Newsletters per year, and is valid for 12 months from the date of payment of the fee. Your expiry date will appear on 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 a great gift. Gift cards are available from the NHS office.

Would you like to save paper and receive our newsletter electronically (in colour)? Y N

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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 below. USA subscribers please pay in US funds to cover postage. International subscribers please pay 19 pounds sterling or Canadian equivalent.

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