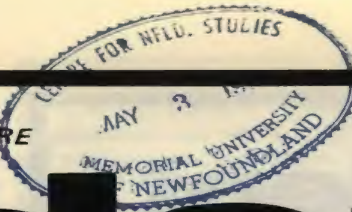


the

PRESENT  
PAST FUTURE

# trident



Vol. 5, No. 1, March, 1978

## Early House Construction of the Freshwater Valley, St. John's

The name Freshwater or Freshwater Valley was applied to that area on the north-west environs of the old city of St. John's, extending roughly from the height of land at the junction of Freshwater and Merrymeeting Roads, to the hills on the north known as Nagle's Hill and Mount Ken. It runs in a north-east and south-west direction as is typical of most of the hills and

timber from the woods to the framing of the windows and doors, the final task in completing the building. Almost without exception, the Irish farmers of the Freshwater Valley came from the south-east of Ireland and, not surprisingly, the dimensions and lay-out of the houses described herein follow very closely, those of the source area of the settlers.



This Essay by  
Aly O'Brien & Aidan O'Hara  
will be serialized over the following 4  
issues of the Trident.

valleys on the Avalon Peninsula, and, indeed, of the entire island of Newfoundland. There are no precise records as to the date of settlement, but it is established that grants of land were given during the period 1840-45, and it is well established in tradition that the Irish farmers had settled on the land under the title known as "squatter's rights" some twenty or twenty-five years earlier.

In this essay Aly O'Brien and I have tried to reconstruct the whole process of house-building that these first settlers employed, from hauling of

When a family moved into the valley they immediately set about building a "tilt." There was always a strong tradition about them and descendants of the early settlers can still point out the location of family tilts throughout the valley. The tilt served as a temporary dwelling for a period of from three to five years. During the winters the settler was engaged in cutting and hauling the timbers and storing them near the site of the proposed permanent dwelling. In this work he was aided by his neighbours, as a rule.

The work of cutting the

timber began in late fall after the harvest and with the arrival of the first snow-fall, about mid-November. The farmer assembled a team made up of a minimum of two men and two horses, plus a helper each. One thing that distinguished the Irish farmers from the Scots and English farmers of the Avalon was that they always retained a shelter belt around their house and farm buildings and around individual fields. The others cleared large areas around their buildings. This may have been due to cultural transfer, partly, or simply because the Irish had the smaller hillside farms (30-40 acres) while the Scots and English had the larger (100-150 acres). It was actually repugnant

the destruction caused by burning large areas of woodland for charcoal in the avalon during the same centuries. However, they did cut timber for firewood and sometimes for fencing from the home woodlot, but always "far back", that is, away from the dwelling. As one descendant of an early settler used to say, "Always cut judiciously."

### Hauling the Timbers

The wooden vehicle used for hauling the timbers was called a "slide" or a "catamaran", pulled by a horse. Tools used were the axe and the crosscut saw. On arriving at the central loading area, previously cleared for the purpose, the horses were

harnessed with the "swing and traces." Pathways radiated from the central loading area into the woods where the logs had been felled. These were hitched to the swing and secured, three or four at a time, with a chain and "snaked" out to the loading point. An intensive effort was made to pile as many logs as possible in the loading area while the weather was fine. Heavy snowfalls made the locating of felled logs difficult, so snaking went on throughout the day. Logs were hauled out by slide over the succeeding weeks. Fresh snowfalls over this period provided the farmer with a good "slide path."

It usually took two winters to accumulate sufficient timbers for the new dwelling. Stones for the construction of the chimney were gathered in over the same period, and building began in the spring once the snow had disappeared. Work on the building took place between working at planting and sowing, hay-time and harvest.

To be continued.

to the Irish to cut within the shelter-belt; instead, they went to crown lands up to five miles away to fetch timber for building and fencing. Mother Allen's Hill and Wickham's Ridge, toward St. Phillip's, were favourite spots. This was more for aesthetic reasons than for wanting to avoid depletion of their own resources, perhaps, or maybe there was a strong folk memory of what happened in seventeenth and eighteenth century Ireland when planter stock and English denuded the countryside of trees. Settlers, too, would have been aware of



# The PRESENT PAST FUTURE trident

The Trident is the quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542, St. John's.

**Editor:** Maria Bradshaw

**Contributors to this issue:** Aly O'Brien, Alden O'Hara, Shannie Duff, Paul O'Neill, Bev Miller, Shane O'Dea, Glen Stroud, Frank Graham, Wallace McLearn, Ralph Barnett, Victor Butler, Katherine McManus.

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## Letters Column

Dear Ms. Bradshaw:

In your "Guess Where" section of the November 1977 issue of *The Trident*, the picture in the upper left corner is of the remains of the old Holy Trinity Church in Torbay. The building that can be seen in the background with the bell tower is the present convent, and just beyond that one can see a window and a bit of the roof of the present Holy Trinity Church. The ruin pictured has since been torn down and many of the stones were used in the construction of a decorative retaining wall in front of the graveyard next to the convent.

Sincerely,  
Dr. J.A. Tague

Torbay Heritage Society

Dear Mrs. Bradshaw:

The building below is the Ryan Shop at Trinity. (Also called Lester's Shop). The lean-to has now fallen down and there are holes in the roof, but it was rumoured recently that Dept. of Tourism might be taking action to save it before the winter storms finish it off.

Yours very truly,

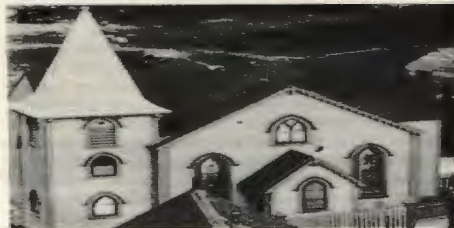
Sir Christopher Barlow

Picture No. 1  
Part of the old stone church in Torbay. It was in existence before 1st World War. The building visible through 1st window is the Torbay Convent.

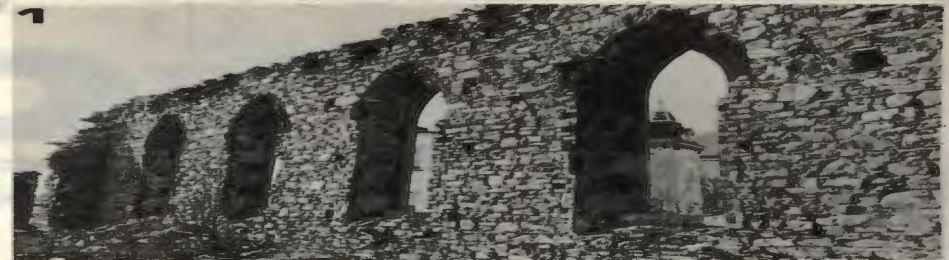
Picture No. 2  
The old C of E church in Quidi Vidi Village.

Picture No. 4  
Part of Bishop Field College which was located on Bond Street on the present site of new building.

Submitted by Jack Canning.



**Quidi Vidi Church**  
(You've got to be kidding!)



**R.C. Church ruins at Torbay**



**Ryan Brothers Store ruins at Trinity, T.B.**



**Possibly Rocky Harbour? Typical of several chapel-schools in outport Newfoundland.**

## Newfoundland Historic Trust

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President  
Past President  
Vice-President

Vice-President  
Vice-President  
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Corresponding Sec.  
Recording Sec.

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Carole Giovannini

20 Forest Rd.  
18 Circular Rd.  
P.O. Box 411  
St. Phillips  
46 Circular Rd.  
39A Portugal Cove Rd.  
88 Circular Rd.  
16 Long Pond Rd.  
3 Forest Ave.

753-1710  
722-6033  
  
895-6800  
726-6945  
753-3155  
753-0070  
753-3647  
753-8875

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Preservation

Public Relations  
Trident  
Research and Planning  
Exhibition

Hospitality

Marketing

Tours  
Publications

Program  
Gift Shop  
Membership  
Quidi Vidi Church  
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Foundation  
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Alberta Wood  
Bette Anderson  
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John Noel

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Beverly Miller

14 Kenna's Hill  
117 Ennis Ave.  
6 Princess Anne Place  
16 Winter Ave.  
43 Holbrook  
7 Winter Place  
80 The Boulevard  
2 Pinsent Pl.  
2 Circular Rd.  
117 Rennie's Mill Rd.  
9 Symonds Pl.  
14 Winnipeg St.  
8 Burns Pl.  
14 Long Pond Rd.  
38 MacKenzie St.  
52 Long Pond Rd.  
2 Whiteway St.  
17 Military Rd.  
12 Ordnance St.  
51 Gambier St.  
181 University Ave.  
6 Parsons Pl.

722-0562  
722-3422  
722-6299  
753-4499  
368-6604  
754-1716  
753-8076  
753-5799  
726-1004  
726-2220  
579-5376  
754-1267  
726-6301  
753-1877  
754-0938  
722-4685  
726-7041  
753-8525  
753-8692  
576-4286  
579-8150  
753-6225

PLEASE NOTE: Our new telephone number 754-1742



## Do You Know the Difference? . . .

What are the functions of the following?

1. The Newfoundland Historic Trust.
2. The Heritage Advisory Committee.
3. The Historical Society.
4. The Heritage Foundation.

1. **THE NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST** was founded in 1966. The original project of the organization was saving Christ Church, Quidi Vidi, which was threatened with demolition. Since that time the Trust has devoted itself to the task of raising public awareness of the value of the preservation of sites, objects, and, most particularly, buildings important to the history of the province.

At present, the Historic Trust carries out an extensive and varied program to achieve this objective. The TRIDENT, a quarterly publication, attempts to keep both members and the general public informed on heritage matters throughout the province. In 1975 the Trust published the first in a series of books on heritage buildings. Entitled, *A GIFT OF HERITAGE*, it focused on some forty noteworthy buildings in the city of St. John's. This spring the second book in this series, *TEN HISTORIC TOWNS*, will be published. Both books feature the art work of St. John's artist, Jean Ball. Some of the pictures in the first book have been reproduced in a series of prints and hasti-notes. The Trust also sponsors a series of exhibitions and program meetings which focus on various aspects of our heritage and its preservation. In 1976 the Preservation committee compiled a list of some 1000 heritage buildings in St. John's which are worthy of preservation. The city council has protected approximately 300 of these from change or destruction. The Preservation and Research Committee are presently compiling a reference card file of heritage buildings in the city. A program of tours for commercial tour companies and local conventions is provided. Maintenance of the Quidi Vidi Church is an ongoing project.

In 1975 Heritage Canada announced its Heritage Conservation Area program. Designed to protect sections of Canadian cities through which a person could walk and get a sense of the past, the program would provide a revolving fund of \$100,000 per year for five

years to buy and restore those buildings in a Heritage Conservation Area which were in the worst condition. Emphasis was to be on the preservation of the streetscapes in chosen cities. In January, 1975, the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada met in St. John's and a small group from the Historic Trust presented a program to them outlining what Trust members thought was the tremendous potential for a Heritage Conservation Area in the city of St. John's. The Board of Governors agreed to put up \$25,000 for a feasibility study. This grant, matched by the provincial government, resulted in the publication of the St. John's Heritage Conservation Area study in the fall of 1976. This study highly recommended the establishment of such an area.

Since the Historic Trust was already involved in many projects and special skills would be needed to oversee the establishment and day to day management of the Heritage Conservation Area, a special board was set up in 1976 to oversee the activities associated with the area. This body is known as the St. John's Heritage Foundation.

While the Foundation is involved with this particular aspect of preservation in the city of St. John's, the Historic Trust, through a varied and exciting program continues its program of "consciousness raising" and education.

The Trust presently has a membership of more than 300 members and new members are always welcome and encouraged to get involved.

by B. Miller

2. **THE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** was established by the St. John's Municipal Council in September of 1977 to advise the Council on all matters relating to the preservation of environmental heritage in the City in accordance with the Heritage By-laws. It is the only such body at

## The St. John's Heritage Foundation

The St. John's Heritage Foundation was set up in 1976 to administer programs in the St. John's Heritage Conservation Area. The area, which was officially established in the summer of 1977 by city by-law, was the result of several years work by the Newfoundland Historic Trust and Heritage Canada. The area falls under Heritage Canada's Heritage Conservation Area Program which is designed to preserve heritage streetscapes and foster the development and preservation of areas through which an individual can walk and get a feeling of the past.

Heritage Canada's original

the Municipal level in Newfoundland and consists presently of two councillors, Fran Innes (Chairperson) and Hugh Baird, as well as four citizens who were selected by Council from a list of nominees from both the **Nfld. Historic Trust** and the **St. John's Heritage Foundation**.

The Committee advises Council on all repairs, alterations and demolitions in the Heritage Conservation Area, and to buildings on the "Designated part of Heritage Structures." The Committee has drawn up guidelines for signs in the Conservation Area, a list of important structures outside the Conservation Area which merit preservation.

The Committee recommends to Council action to be taken in the matter of applications for repair, etc., and, in doing so, provides Council with a rationale for such action. Should a person seeking a permit feel that his/her case needs reconsideration (i.e. if the request for a permit has been turned down) that person may then submit an appeal to the Building Regulations Board of Appeal which will consider the case and report to Council its findings, much in the manner of the Zoning Appeal Board.

by Shane O'Dea

commitment of \$100,000 per year for five years has been matched by the Newfoundland government. The Heritage Canada fund is a revolving fund to be used for the purchase and rehabilitation of vacant and derelict properties in the area. Once a house is rehabilitated and sold the money can be used for another building. The Provincial grant makes possible the administration of this program by providing funds for office space, a manager, publicity, etc. A generous grant from the Devonian Foundation will make several hundred thousand more dollars available for the recycling of residential buildings. Support has also come from the city in the form of protective legislation and the presentation of a city owned building, 203 Water St., to the Foundation. The Foundation presently owns 11 houses in the Heritage Conservation Area. Rehabilitation of the first of these houses, 27 Victoria St. was completed in December 1977 and it has been sold. Two houses at 170-172 Gower St. are being converted into three flats and will be completed at the end of March. Tenders have been called on 173-175 Gower St. and this summer should see a tremendous amount of rehabilitation work done in the area.

There are 25 members of the St. John's Heritage Foundation. They include representatives from the Historic Trust, the Historical Society, the city, the provincial government, as well as a wide spectrum of citizens including businessmen, architects, builders and residents of the area. While most of the efforts of the Foundation thus far have been devoted to getting the building rehabilitation program underway a series of committees is being created to deal with many aspects of heritage preservation in the area, including development of the laneways, sponsorship of a St. John's Day program, a Preservation Awards program and establishment of a series of markers for the area.

The Foundation maintains an office at 233 Duckworth St. where those interested in the rehabilitation of old buildings, particularly those in the conservation area, can receive advice and support. The office is open from 8:30 - 4:30. The phone number is 753-2471.

by Bev. Miller

## HERITAGE HIERARCHY

### FEDERAL

Dept. Indian & Northern Affairs  
Historic Sites Division  
Nat. Historic Sites & Areas

### PROVINCIAL

Dept. of Tourism  
Historic Resources Division  
Provincial Historic Sites & Areas

### MUNICIPAL

St. John's Municipal Council  
Heritage Advisory Committee  
Municipal Historic Sites

### VOLUNTARY

NFLD. HISTORIC TRUST — Activist/Educational group concerned in Conservation of Material Heritage.

NFLD. HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Academic/Educational group concerned in conservation of historical records.

ST. JOHN'S HERITAGE FOUNDATION — Managerial & Funding agency responsible for carrying out conservation work.

OTHER REGIONAL & LOCAL — Varying aims and interests.



## The Boyle Challenge Cup — Hockey's Most Prestigious Award

by Frank Graham  
Sports Archivist

Few athletic trophies are as strikingly magnificent in craftsmanship and design as the Boyle Challenge Cup. Certainly no athletic award anywhere has a more meaningful tradition of historic and sentimental significance.

The Boyle Cup was presented to the Newfoundland Hockey Association in 1904 by Sir Cavendish Boyle K.C.M.G. who was then Governor of Newfoundland. It was the original intention of the donor that the trophy should be competed for between local and Canadian teams. It was the feeling of the



THE BOYLE CHALLENGE CUP

The trophy donated by Sir Cavendish Boyle K.C.M.G. in 1904 for local hockey supremacy.

The original base has been enlarged many many times over the past seventy years to accommodate the names of members of each year's winning team.

Hockey Association, however, that the cup would have greater value in fostering, sustaining and increasing interest in the game if it was identified with local hockey supremacy. Sir Cavendish Boyle wholeheartedly endorsed that reasoning. The Boyle Cup became Newfoundland's most prestigious trophy.

Certainly no trophy was more lovingly planned than the Boyle Cup. It is a strangely unique athletic trophy. It is a sterling silver cup with unusual ornamentation. It depicts three silver figured lions seemingly attempting to drink from the bowl of the cup. Their bodies thus positioned produce the effect of a trio of cup handles. To Sir Cavendish Boyle the leonine

motif is not without significance. As a grandson of the seventh Earl of Cork and Orrery Boyle's family crest featured three lions. Enscribed around the bowl of the Cup are the words 'We love thee, frozen land' which will be readily recognized as a line from Boyle's poem, the ode to 'Newfoundland' which when later set to music by Sir Hubert Parry, became this Province's national anthem.

When the Boyle Challenge Cup first entered local competition in 1904 its value was \$150.00. Today nobody would attempt to translate such a priceless part of our heritage into dollars and cents. The first team to win the Boyle Cup was the

Terra Nova Club. Readily recognizable as a member of that victorious team is the name Vinnicombe. Two brothers Nix and Jim Vinicombe are the first names enscribed on the Cup. That name was to appear again and again as Nix Vinicombe's sons were members of St. Bon's teams which captured the Boyle Cup in later years.

Over the years, well over five hundred names of those individuals who have been members of victorious teams have appeared on the Boyle Cup. To each, without exception it was a life's ambition realized. What a magnificent cavalcade of hockey greats spanning nearly seventy years of local hockey history.

The Boyle Challenge Cup has not been up for competition since the early seventies. The

likelihood is that it may be retired but the suggestion has been advanced that it should re-enter competition as the trophy emblematic of High School hockey supremacy contested for by teams Province-wide. After all Sir Cavendish Boyle's idea was to encourage amateur competition and who can better appreciate the true sense of the term if not school-boys. They play for the love of the game.

When the Boyle trophy was withdrawn from local competition five years ago the trophy itself fell into private hands and would still be there had not people with a sense of our sports heritage rescued it and brought it back to the public domain. It is now on display in the showcase in the lobby of the St. John's Stadium.

### A Tragedy that could have been averted if . . . by Ralph Barrett

Slob is a formation on top of the water, caused by snow falling into it. If pushed together by wind or current, slob can accumulate to a depth of two or three feet, especially if forced against the land. When collected in this way, it cannot be walked on, nor is it possible to row a boat through it. On rare occasions, small rowboats on sea bird hunting trips have gotten caught and sometimes their occupants have perished for want of a pair of 'slob haulers', or a creeping grapnel, that can be thrown a short distance.

The following true story from hearsay and memory is such a case. It occurred at Change Islands in the late ninetens or early nineteen twenties.

Two men, Diamond and Gatehouse went out from the East end of Main Tickle, rowing a rodney to hunt seabirds. It may have been November or early December. It began to snow quite thick and a great deal of snow slob collected on the water. When they set out to return home, they found their way blocked with snow slob. They rowed into it until they got stuck. They could not get ahead, nor could they get out. They were forced to drift with the slob. At one point, they drifted into Main Tickle to the foot of a high cliff, on the top of which a family lived. They were near enough, if they had had a creeping grapnel to have thrown it ashore, or could have hauled ashore with a pair of 'slob haulers.' The people in the house on top of the cliff did not hear their cries for help.

The wind changed to North West, they drifted out of the tickle and across the run toward Fogo Island. It turned cold and began to freeze. Sometime in the course of that drift, Gatehouse died. As the slob

packed against Fogo Island, Diamond tested it for freezing strength and when he thought it would bear his weight, crawled over it more than a mile to Hare Bay. I think Hare Bay has now been named Deep Bay.

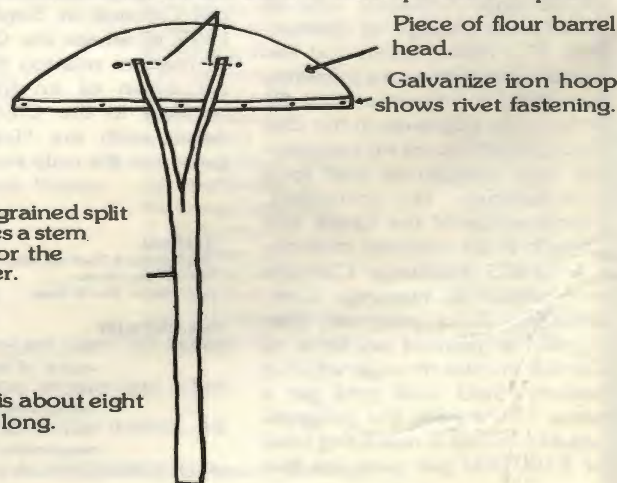
### SLOB HAULER

A rough drawing of a Slob Hauler. My grandfather had a pair. I never saw them used, changing times were causing them to fall into disuse by the time I came along. They were used to haul a rodney through snow slob too thick to row through. The rodney was a very light built rowboat for two men, used to hunt sea birds and seals Spring and Fall. Fall was the danger time for snow slob. A pair was required. The men sat on the stern seat of the rodney, facing forward. Their weight raised the fore foot of the rod-

ney above the slob. They each reached out, one on either side, with their slob haulers and pulled the boat along. There was a safety gadget, for emergency use by Change Islands fisherman and perhaps by other fishermen as well, from early settlement to the late 1800's. With slob haulers men could haul a boat ashore, without, they could perish.

Written and drawn by Ralph Barrett, formerly of Change Islands, Nfld., now of Happy Valley, Labrador.

Small Galvanized nails on the back to hold split ends in place.



A straight grained split stick makes a stem (handle) for the slob hauler.

The stem is about eight to ten feet long.



## Chasin' Oakum Balls Wallace McLean

I used old muzzle loaders in my time. They was easy to use. You'd take a handful of powder, depending on what you was goin' go shoot. If t'was something big you'd take a big handful. You'd pour your powder down the muzzle then you'd put in a wad of oakum on top of that. If that bird was flyin' right by you had to get in a hurry because when you ram that down you had to get a cap on. When that old hammer came down you shut your eyes tight. When you tried to hold her at the aim you had to close your eyes and BANG you'd wake up one place and your gun was somewhere else.

Like I said you'd measure your powder accordin' to what you was goin' to shoot. If t'was a black bear you'd take a handful of powder a shot, if t'was a partridge very little was enough.

Them days ammunition was scarce. When you went to H.B.C. to get your winter supplies it wasn't like buyin' it today. There was one keg of powder which was about 20 lbs. Well, that was for everyone. There was two bags of shot in two different sizes and a bundle of oakum. Each man would get a pound of powder, two handfuls of shot regardless if you had a small hand or a big one, and how ever much oakum you

could get in one jump. This oakum was hung up on the beams where a man couldn't reach it unless he jumped. If you got a handful or a pinch that was all you was goin' to get. That was it, one jump and no more. My father had a big hand so he could do good in his swoops in the two shot bags.

I remember one fall me and my father went down to Sandy Point for a partridge hunt. I was ten or eleven years old. Well, we got in camp for the night and the old man started foolin' around with pullin' off the oakum, rollin' it up and givin' it to me to chew. No peppermint gum or anything them days. You'd chew it until it was just about in a roll, chew and roll until it was as hard as you could make it. You'd make probably about a dozen. In the morning we went out when the partridges started. My father would shoot the partridge in the head and stun it. My job was to run and twist it's neck and look for this oakum ball before it burned away. The oakum ball would burn like a cigarette butt. You'd see a little smoke rising up and you'd run and spit on it. By this time the gun would be ready for another charge. Well, the next partridge might be in a tree, my father would fire up there and the partridge would come down



Wallace McLean — North West River

and I'd twist his neck then go up the tree lookin' for this smoke rising on a little limb. I'd shake it off then hurry down and spit on it. You'd do that till there was nothing left and you'd have to get a new oakum wad. That's how we got partridges. You had to save your shot.

The fellers that didn't get much oakum in their jump, well, they used moss or maw-down (black whiskers) off the trees.

The muzzle loaders were no good in damp weather, but they was farther ahead than the breech loaders. Every time you'd load a muzzle loader you'd clean it out by ramming these oakum balls down. The breach loader soon dirtys up inside. They opened on a joint and you'd shove your shells in. These old muzzle loaders they

could use almost anything in them, gravel rocks, shingle nails or anything. They claimed shingle nails was almost as good as shot.

courtesy of CFGB Radio

### News from The Mary March Regional Museum

Glenn Stroud, Director

Recently concluded, a one month run of the "Jubilee Exhibit," an exhibit prepared by the Newfoundland Museum to mark Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee Year. This exhibit was well received by the visitors to our Centre.

Currently we are running an unusual exhibit entitled "Empty Cases . . . but not for long! We have placed our display cases in our exhibit hall and invited the general public to fill them for us with suitable objects. This is an experiment, I don't know if it has ever been tried elsewhere, with two main objectives; one, to increase the number of objects in our permanent collection; and, two, to increase public participation in the museum at what is normally a low attendance period. This exhibit will run until early March when, we hope, all of our display cases will be filled to capacity with interesting objects.

Following the current display we will be running an exhibition of David Blackwood prints from Memorial University Art Gallery. This will run from the middle of March to the middle of April (to coincide with the opening of the seal hunt) and will, we hope, be augmented with films and a print making workshop. Later in the spring we will be showing "The Camera and Dr. Barnardo", a photographic exhibit prepared by the Canadian Portrait Gallery in England and circulated within Canada by the National Museums.

## "THE INUIT PRINT"

The National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs are pleased to announce that the travelling exhibit "The Inuit Print" will be opening in Quebec City on January 8, 1978 at "Le Musée du Québec."

The exhibit, consisting of one hundred and fifty-five prints from seven Arctic communities, presents an overview of printmaking activities in the Canadian north from 1959 to the present. It is intended as a sequel to the major sculpture exhibit 'Sculpture of the Inuit: Masterworks of the Canadian Arctic' which toured internationally from 1971 to 1973.

The art of the Canadian Inuit is a phenomenon of the mid-twentieth Century; in thirty years, a treasured abundance of good art has come from a very few persons within this distinct culture. We wonder that such beauty, vitality, joy and eloquence can pour forth from a cul-

### 1978

January 8-29  
February 18-April 2  
April 14-May 9

mid June-end July  
August 23-October 15

International schedule to be announced.

ture under severe stress from rapid, deep and persuasive change.

Experimentation in modern printmaking began in the Canadian Arctic in 1957 at Cape Dorset. The first annual catalogued collection was assembled in 1959 and was received with enthusiasm by collectors in southern Canada.

The success of the Cape Dorset project prompted other communities to follow suit. Prints from Povungnituk appeared in 1962, from Holman in 1965, from Baker Lane in 1970, from several Arctic Quebec communities in 1972 and from Pangnirtung in 1973. Each of these communities has

Musée du Québec  
Art Gallery of Ontario  
Memorial University Art Gallery, NFLD.  
New Brunswick Museum  
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

developed independently and differs in choice of imagery and in technique.

Of paramount importance, given the isolation from both the tradition and technology of printmaking, has been the interaction of the artists and printmakers with outside agents, including advisors and their own cooperatives and marketing agencies.

After the opening at "Le Musée du Québec," the exhibit will travel to other Canadian cities before beginning its international tour.

For more information and photographs, contact:  
John Lomoro  
(613) 993-0881





27 Victoria Street

Completed as a residential demonstration project. All original facade details were retained. An unsuitable "modern" door was replaced with one more in keeping with the style of the house. Contrasting colours were used to highlight architectural details. New plumbing, wiring and gyproc party walls were installed and the house insulated. The house was sold immediately and private rehabilitation activity on the street has increased.



168 Gower Street  
with view of Feaver's Lane

This property is in good structural condition and has interesting interior features. It is undergoing a complete functional rehabilitation as a single family five bedroom home. (Heritage Canada Fund).

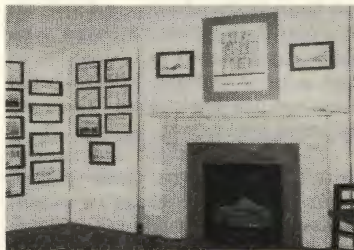


107 Bond Street

A very fine Victorian House with excellent interior detailing which will be retained in rehabilitation to a single family dwelling. This is one of five Foundation properties backing on Feaver's Lane. Purchased with Heritage Canada Funds.

If you've had occasion to visit the Conservation Area recently you may have noticed signs of activity around some of the derelict and long abandoned houses in this part of the old city.

This activity, with much more to come once the weather improves, is part of a major programme of heritage sensitive rehabilitation of older homes now underway as part of the de-



Interior 27 Victoria Street

Some minor structural changes were made to give the house more light and make it more functional for modern living. A completely new bathroom and kitchen were installed. Fireplaces, doors, mouldings and woodwork were retained where possible but in order to keep the cost within reason no attempt was made to achieve an authentic Victorian interior.

velopment of the St. John's Conservation Area plan. The programme is under the direction of John Beck's very active property committee with expert help of the Foundation's General Manager, Mr. David Webber.

When it first undertook the task of translating the **St. John's Heritage Conservation Area Study** into reality the Foundation Board made a policy decision that one of its first major targets would be to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of the residential section of the area and to show that this could be done effectively and economically by retaining the architectural character of its largely 19thC housing stock.

This decision was taken because the Board is convinced that as a first plan of attack on the problems of the area it will have far reaching benefits for the continued health and vitality of the whole area.

**THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONSERVA-**

**TION AREA IS PEOPLE.** — families with a sense of commitment to the area choosing old St. John's as a place to live.

People living in the area means shoppers for downtown stores, parishoners for downtown churches and children to reverse the enrolment of inner city schools.

The Conservation Area Study identified some very serious danger signals. There were over forty vacant houses within the relatively small boundaries of the area which were not only an eyesore but a target for vandalism and a serious fire hazard. There was a continuing decline in population and less than half the people living there owned their own homes.

The reasons for the decline were complex and longstanding, starting with the historic attitude of neglect on the part of the city government over twenty years which has only recently begun to change. The problem was compounded by the difficulty in obtaining mortgages and fire insurance and the rapid growth of suburbs. In simplest terms there was a general lack of faith in the area as a safe and attractive place to live and as long as people believed the decline would continue those who were mobile tended to move out.

If the trend continued it was obvious that the downtown as a neighbourhood would die and with it the historic shopping areas of Water and Duckworth Streets and the irreplaceable 19thC schools and churches.

The East End Neighbourhood improvement programme was a very real step in the right direction but large parts of the old town were not included and it could not address itself adequately to the problem of already abandoned houses or to retaining the architectural character of the older houses.

The property rehabilitation programme and the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme are complementary and the purpose of this article is to outline briefly the objectives of the property rehabilitation programme of the St. John's Heritage Foundation and give a short report on the success of the programme to date.

The Funding comes from two



Rear 170-172 Gower Street

The removal of linneys from these properties backing on Feaver's Lane will facilitate off street parking and landscaping of this open space. Plans for the space were developed by the Foundation who own five properties backing on Feaver's Lane. The co-operation of the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme and the adjacent property owners will be necessary for implementation.





# HOUSES TAKE ON STAGE LOOK."

separate sources. \$500,000 was made available by Heritage Canada in \$100,000 installments over five years. After a period of time, (minimum five years) the properties purchased by this fund may be sold and the money returned to Heritage Canada for use in other areas.

\$500,000, also in five \$100,000 installments has been given to the Foundation by the Calgary based Devonian Group. Once the housing rehabilitation programme is successfully completed these funds will be retained by the Foundation and used for other projects in the area.

Both these funds operate on the principle of a property revolving fund, i.e., properties are purchased, rehabilitated, placed under protective covenant and then sold or rented and the proceeds used to purchase and rehabilitate other properties. These funds tend to spiral downward over time because of costs of public education, promotion, design and planning which are not recoverable and because in the initial stages of restoring confidence to an area, property will likely be sold at a loss.

Using its Heritage Canada funds the Foundation has completed its first residential demonstration project, 27 Victoria Street. This once empty house has now become a model of economical and heritage sensitive rehabilitation in the area. It was sold as soon as it was offered on the market and a new family are now residents of downtown St. John's.

Thirteen additional properties have been acquired and are in various stages of design, costing or rehabilitation. Various approaches to rehabilitation will be used ranging from a completed functional rehabilitation such as Victoria Street to a rehabilitation of the exterior leaving a shell interior to be completed by the purchaser. In one case, 170-172 Gower Street, two adjoining houses are presently being converted to three spacious apartments.

In addition, the Foundation is actively encouraging private individuals to move back downtown by purchasing and rehabilitating their own houses. The Foundation offers a free

consultation service to all existing and prospective property owners in the area. A book on guidelines to heritage sensitive rehabilitation has been printed and practical advice is available on problems relating to plumbing, wiring, insulation and building structure.

Plans are being prepared to utilize back yard spaces in the area for landscaping and off-street parking in consultation and co-operation with residents. Other programmes of the Foundation will involve a general enhancement of the area making it a safer and more attractive place to live.

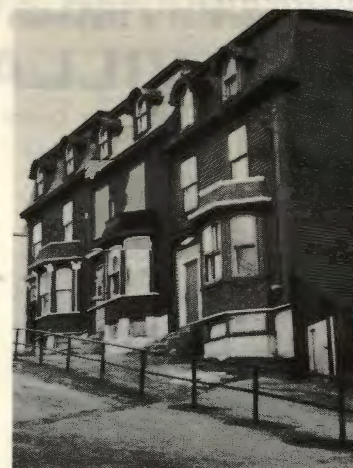
Committees of the Foundation are also working to improve the situation with mortgage financing and fire insurance in the area.

The programme shows every

indication of success. With the continued co-operation of the City and the residents of the area, within a few years this neighbourhood will be the pride of St. John's.

**THINKING OF BUYING A HOUSE? WHY NOT CONSIDER MOVING DOWNTOWN? WATCH FOR THE "OPEN HOUSE" ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE COMING MONTHS AND COME SEE FOR YOURSELF THAT HISTORIC ST. JOHN'S OFFERS THE BEST REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES ON THE MARKET TODAY.**

**Shannie Duff,  
Information Committee,  
St. John's Heritage Foundation.**



**Kimberly Row  
(4-6-8 Dick's Square)**

This very fine row of Victorian Mansard Southcott Style Houses has been purchased using both Heritage Canada and Devonian Funds. This row has been chosen by Heritage Canada as part of a series of silver medals depicting Canadian Architectural Heritage. Offstreet parking will be provided at the rear. The door of the house on the right has been "cut down" destroying an important architectural feature of the facade. Part of the rehabilitation will involve replacement of this feature.



**Interior 170-172 Gower Street**

Rehabilitation of two houses into three apartments. The houses were in extremely bad condition and very little of the original interiors were salvagable.



**173-175 Gower Street**

A very good example of 'demolition by neglect.' These houses in one of the best rows of Victorian Mansard Housing on Gower Street came close to being 50% deteriorated through long neglect and vandalism. The Foundation purchased the houses to save the row using Heritage Canada Funds. They have been literally torn apart and will be rehabilitated as a shell to be completed by the purchaser. This will enable the Foundation to sell the properties as cheaply and quickly as possible. The exterior will be given a complete Heritage sensitive rehabilitation.

This row backs on Willicott's Lane, one of the potential beauty spots of old St. John's with a magnificent view of the narrows and great potential for landscaping and offstreet parking.



**Kimberly Row**

Original door and "modern" replacement. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.





# THE VILLAGE FORGE

by Victor Butler of Arnold's Cove

A century ago there lived in Haystack, Placentia Bay, Robert Coffin and his family of four sons — George, William, Henry and Charles, plus several daughters; and George Wareham and his family.

One day in early winter George Wareham and Charles Coffin were fishing in an open punt when a storm came up and swamped the punt. Being a strong swimmer and a sturdy man, George took Charles on his back in the icy waters and rough seas, swam to Cole's Cove, and walked to his home in Haystack, more than a quarter of a mile away. There was no fanfare or medal of bravery for George Wareham, his feat was just passed off as an every day occurrence.

George later married one of Robert Coffin's daughters, and was the father of Alberto and Wilfred W. Wareham, founders of W.W. Wareham of Haystack and Harbour Buffett. Alberto was founder of Alberto Wareham Limited, Spencers Cove, and Alberto Wareham and Sons, Harbour Buffett.

George Coffin set up the first blacksmith shop, or forge, in Placentia Bay, at Haystack. At the time, a lead mine was operating in Lamanche, where George learned the blacksmith trade. He became an excellent blacksmith and catered to the majority of fishermen in Placentia Bay, making iron work for their boats.

The forge had an earthen floor, as a wooden floor would have been a fire hazard. A wooden box was filled with gravel and sand, a depression made in the gravel, where coal was burned, and served as a fire-place. Bellows for this old time forge were six feet long, three feet wide, three feet high at the large end, tapering to eight inches in diameter at the small end. Three sections of wooden plank were cut to size and placed horizontally, one above the other. The centre was fastened to the block of wood or hub at the small end, in which a 2½" iron pipe was placed to pass through the side of the hub into the fire-place. The top and bottom sections of wood were hinged at the hub. A non-return air intake was placed in the bottom section, as well as the centre or stationary section. The

whole framework was covered with a pliable leather, fastened with flat head copper nails, to make bellows air tight.

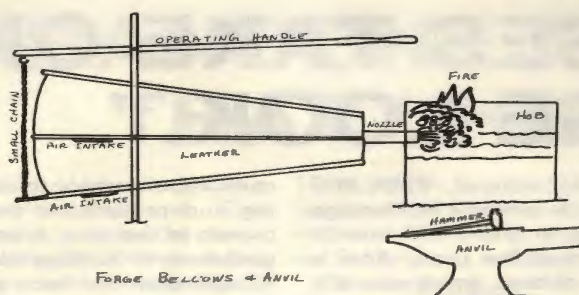
The bellows were operated with a wooden handle ten feet long, suspended on a hook with a small chain attached to one end of the handle, with the other end of the chain attached to the large end of the bottom framework. Operating this handle in an up and down motion, it drew air into the bottom air intake, through the central air intake, through the iron nozzle, and into the fire-place. A large anvil was stationed in front of the fire-place, with a tub of water nearby for cooling hot iron.

George Coffin made the majority of the tools he used, such as straight tongs, side grip tongs, flat nosed tongs, swedged, cold chisels and punches. George Jr. worked with his father and learned the blacksmith trade.

George Jr. married Ada Burton and lived at Buffett. After Alberto Wareham and Sons bought the business premises of Walter Chambers and moved to Buffett, Alberto's business expanded so rapidly, and his fleet of vessels increased to such an extent that he needed a blacksmith. He hired George and built a blacksmith shop on his property. He purchased the anvil and tools from George's father. George Coffin Jr. excelled his father as a blacksmith.

George Coffin Sr. enjoyed playing practical jokes on people: The door to Coffin's forge was by the roadside. On the earthen floor inside the door lay a fifty-six pound weight used on the old time fish scales. In the bottom of the weight was a deep depression where lead could be added to adjust the weight. My grandfather was building a church on the neck of land near the forge. At dinner time coming from his boarding house, if he had a few spare minutes he would lean against the door jam and yarn with Coffin, as they were good friends.

George decided to playing a trick on grandfather. He filled the cavity in the iron weight with blasting powder, laid a trail of powder from where grandfather would stand to the fire, and had the tip of the iron poker heating in the fire. Shortly



DRAWN BY S. BUTLER

grandfather arrived and leaned against the door jam prepared for a little chat. George took the poker from the fire, and put it on the trail of powder. Grandfather was so confused by the fire running across the floor toward the iron weight he didn't move. With a roar like thunder, and a

cloud of smoke and flame, the weight shot through the door in front of grandfather, went across the road and in the ditch beyond. Grandfather shouted, "My God, am I kilt? Am I kilt?" For the next two months he would pass the forge and not speak to George.



St. John's Heritage Foundation

announces  
The First Annual  
PRESERVATION AWARDS  
to be presented

St. John's Day - June 24, 1978

The awards will recognize outstanding contributions made by groups and individuals to the preservation of the unique architectural heritage of the city of St. John's. All buildings in the city which have been rehabilitated or maintained in a manner which retains or restores the original character of both the building and the old city of St. John's are eligible for consideration.

The members of the general public are encouraged to make nominations by completing this form and returning it to

The St. John's Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 5246  
233 Duckworth Street  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1C 5W1  
Attn. Preservation Awards

## PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

Address of Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Rehabilitation Work (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

For further information come into the Foundation Office or call  
753-2471

Deadline for nomination: April 1, 1978



# Benevolent Irish Society (St. Patrick's Hall) St. John's, Newfoundland

The 1802 census of St. John's showed that the relative proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants of all demoninations was about two to one, and that the Catholics were almost entirely of Irish extraction. The conditions of life in the city of that date were, by later standards, incredibly harsh, the poor and destitute had to rely solely on alms from the charitable to relieve their sufferings. In 1806 a group of Irish gentlemen proposed to form their fellow countrymen into a society having for its object the relief of the poor and helpless. The result was the founding of the Benevolent Irish Society, who until the advent of government services provided for the poor, educated the children of the city and cared for the orphans.

The B.I.S. was instrumental in bringing several religious orders to St. John's to supervise the education and care of the children. Two orders of nuns — the Presentation Order in 1833



dows, doors, external angles, eaves, belts, etc. the estimated cost was £5000. It was decided that an appeal be made to the general public to help defray cost, accordingly a circular was sent round the town.

'The B.I.S. of St. John's being impressed with the urgent necessity of affording suitable school accommodation to the hundreds of children anxious to obtain admission to the already overcrowded schools at the Orphan Asylum in charge of the Christian Brothers, have determined on erecting a building where ample provision will be made to meet the wants of the Catholic community in this regard.'<sup>3</sup>

The prospectus for the building announced that the B.I.S. had determined on erecting their grounds on the north side of Queen's Road, a building or hall to be called St. Patrick's Hall.<sup>4</sup>

The tenders were awarded to John Coleman and William Kelly, after slight alterations to the original plan had been made, notably to the tower to defray costs.<sup>4</sup>

On July 22, 1877 the corner stone was laid by the Roman Catholic bishop of St. John's, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Fower, and the building was completed on Aug. 15, 1880.

The building had three storeys, the middle story being divided into four large classrooms, bright, airy, wholesome rooms, where every care had been given to proper ventilation and sanitation. The school was capable of accommodating four hundred students. It was also used as a meeting house for the B.I.S. Unfortunately during the fire of 1892 St. Patrick's sustained severe damage, leaving only the outer walls intact.

In the Morning Dispatch a few days later, the following article appeared. 'The fire destroyed St. Patrick's Hall, which was perhaps the most imposing public hall in the city. It was thought its isolated position would save it, but although the Brothers worked heroically

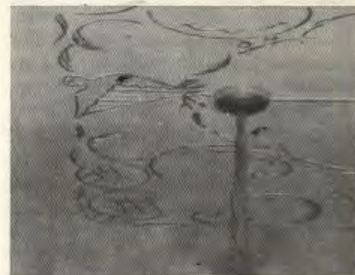
their efforts were in vain. A small patch of fire struck the overhanging wooden crevice of a roof window and the building was lost.' However, as the main walls were practically intact it was decided to rebuild without delay.<sup>6</sup>

Messrs. Green and Parsons, architects, assisted with the plans, and owing to the high tenders placed by Newfoundland contractors, a Mr. S.M. Brookfield of Halifax was awarded the tender. By 1894 the restoration work was completed, only the roof had been altered.<sup>6</sup>

Today St. Patrick's Hall is still the headquarters of the Benevolent Irish Society, although they are more of a social club than a service club now. The theatre on the upper floor, called the Nickle Theatre from the days when a film cost only a nickle to see, is used as a Bingo parlor.

Although the 1892 fire necessitated major renovations, St. Patrick's Hall and the Anglican Church were perhaps the

only two public buildings reconstructed after the fire, the rest were demolished and totally new buildings replaced them. This building also serves as a reminder of the invaluable contribution made by the B.I.S. to the life of St. John's throughout the nineteenth century.



## FOOTNOTES

1. The Centenary Vol. of the Benevolent Irish Society, St. John's, 1806-1906. Cork, Ireland: Guy and Co. Ltd. 1906
2. Ibid, p. 139
3. Ibid, p. 139
4. Ibid
5. Ibid, p. 140
6. Ibid, p. 145

Courtesy of Nfld. Museum



and the Order of Our Lady of Mercy in 1842 — and the Christian Brothers.

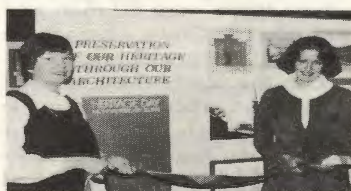
The arrival of the Christian Brothers in 1875 and the great impetus which they gave to education, necessitated the building of a new school to take the place of the old Orphan Asylum, which had served as a school.

On July 9, 1876 the society met to debate a possible site, style and cost of a new building, and a committee of fifteen was elected to procure plans and an estimate.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Charles Kickham and Mr. John Coleman presented individual plans, and while Mr. Kickham's plans were generally approved, the roof and tower were taken from Mr. Coleman's. A grand entrance from Military Road was also added.<sup>2</sup>

The building was to be constructed of rubble work, coated with cement, the basement of hammered stone and granite base, freestone dressing to win-

## Programs with an Emphasis on Architecture



Mrs. Janice Moores (Right) cutting the ribbon on Heritage Day. Katherine McManus.

Two events took place for those interested in the architecture of Newfoundland recently. The first, a slide presentation and lecture, took place November 24th at the Arts and Culture Centre meeting room. The presentation was titled "European Influences on Newfoundland Architecture." Dr. John Mannion, from the geography department at Memorial University, has done extensive research on the topic and through his slides traced the origin of architectural styles prevalent in the oldest buildings in Newfoundland. The slide presentation and lecture was fascinating for anyone with an interest in the history of the earliest wooden buildings found on the island.

The second event was the Heritage Day exhibit at the Avalon Mall, from February 20 through 25th. It was titled "Preservation Of Our Heritage



Visitors to the Exhibit.

Through Our Architecture." The exhibit, which was formally opened by Janis Moore in a ribbon cutting ceremony, at 2:00 p.m. on February 20th, was a composite of what is happening in downtown St. John's to the Victorian buildings. Part of the exhibit consisted of pictures of houses that are being or have been renovated; another section was devoted to houses that have lost all their historic value through improper remodeling and the last emphasis was placed on what is in St. John's future, e.g., the A.H. Murray premises. The traditional Heritage Week bake sale was also held and enjoyed on Friday, February 24th. The people who made Heritage Week possible in 1978 were: Beverly Miller, Betty Anderson, Sandy Huntley, Emma Horwood, Peter Dawson, Patricia Gratton, Gary McManus and Katherine McManus.



1679 — The first mention we have of Carbonear Island is connected with the proposals of Wm. Downing and Thomas Oxford, merchants of St. John's, who in 1679 urged the British Government to erect some fortification to protect Nfld. from French aggression.

First proposal was to fortify St. John's Harbour. Second was to fortify Carbonear with 15 great guns and 80 small arms. The British Government for reasons known only to themselves refused to allow these fortifications.

1688 — The long expected war with France broke out in 1688 and it continued with short intermissions of peace for about 25 years until the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

When the war commenced the French had Placentia strongly fortified and it was their stronghold in America. The inhabitants of St. John's had tried their best to put up some fortifications but were poorly backed up by the British Government.

It doesn't appear that the British Government did anything to protect the Conception Bay people and it was a great surprise to the enemy to find that any defence was set up.

1696 — In the spring of this year D'Iberville, the great French Commander who is called the "Nelson of the New World", received instructions from the French Government to destroy all the English settlements in Newfoundland. Two Men-of-War were placed under his command. When they arrived in Placentia Sept. 12th, 1696, they found that the French Governor De Brouillon had already made an attempt on St. John's but had failed. Bitter quarrels ensued between the two French leaders, D'Iberville and De Brouillon.

D'Iberville's intention was to attack the unguarded settlements by land, De Brouillon contended for an attack by a number of French Canadians and Indians had come to Placentia during the summer to take part in the expected attack on the English and they signified their intention of following D'Iberville only.

As a final compromise D'Iberville was to take his men by land and De Brouillon was to attack by sea.

Owing to head winds the attack by sea was a partial failure and De Brouillon had to return to Placentia with his vessels short of provisions.

In the year of 1696 the winter

must have set in very early as on the 1st November when D'Iberville started with his French Canadians and Indians, they walked on the ice up to the S.E. Arm of Placentia. It was a great exploit to take a small army with provisions, arms and ammunition across country at this season through the bush.

On November 10th, they reached Ferryland having been two days on short allowances as provisions were scarce.

On the 21st they started for Bay Bulls in boats and arriving there joined De Brouillon's forces and on November 28th, an attack was made on St. John's. Some defence was put up by the people at the South-side Hills but they soon gave in.

D'Iberville made a rush on St. John's with a small force and took two of the Forts but the largest, Fort William, held out for a few days, but soon surrendered.

On January 4th, D'Iberville started for Portugal Cove and after pillaging this settlement and travelling along the shore to the bottom of Conception Bay, on the 20th January they took Harbour Main then got three boats and left there for Carbonear. They passed by Brigus where there were 60 men and took Port de Grave where there were 110 men well armed.

On the 24th they started again for Carbonear and while passing Harbour Grace in boats, they found the inhabitants to the number of 200 had fortified themselves on Carbonear Island and fired some cannon shots at them.

After reaching Carbonear, D'Iberville sent a summons to the people on the Island to surrender, but was met with defiance.

Several attempts were made to capture the Island but in vain. On the night of January 31st a great attempt was made to take it by surprise with 90 men in 9 boats. When the French were within pistol shot and ready to jump ashore, the sentry challenged them and fired. This quickly aroused the garrison and the attack was repulsed.

He had attracted the attention of the French King Louis XIV and was created an officer with rank of Lieutenant in the French Royal Navy. This was the first distinction of the kind on record and fired the blood and pride of not a few of the French Canadian youths.

D'Iberville's successes had bolstered up the waning popularity of the French Fur Co. in

# Carbonear Island . . .

from  
HISTORICAL ANECDOTES  
by  
H.F. SHORTIS, 1910

Canada. This popular hero had just returned from Hudson Bay with about \$20,000 worth of beaver skins and other fur.

Fort Nelson on Hudson Bay was still the great stronghold of the English and had been greatly fortified. The French had never taken it and D'Iberville was not satisfied until he should obtain possession of it.

He crossed over to France and received a warm reception at Versailles. He unfolded his plans for the capture of Fort Nelson and was promised two ships by the French King. Highly gratified, he returned home to Canada in 1694 and started from Quebec on the 10th August for Hudson Bay arriving at Fort Nelson September 24th.

Almost immediately he disembarked his forces and bombarded the fort from Sept. 25 to Oct. 14th when the Governor was forced to surrender.

D'Iberville remained there one year, leaving in July. In 1696 the English sent a very strong expedition who recaptured this fort and one of the terms of surrender was that they should be transported to Plaisance, a French port in Newfoundland (Placentia). This, you will notice, was the year that D'Iberville had been given instructions to destroy all the English settlements in Nfld. and capture that Island for the French. How well he carried out his instructions, we have already partly described.

The following year, 1697, the French Court sent a fleet of four ships to join D'Iberville, then at the port of Placentia, knowing no one man was so thoroughly equipped at all points in the knowledge of Hudson's Bay as was this hero. . .

At the same time four of the English ships had left Plymouth to reinforce Fort Nelson. The English fleet were forty hours ahead of the French entering Hudson's Bay. Still D'Iberville, in his vessel the 'Pelican' of fifty guns, managed to reach Fort Nelson before them. The French Commander was as much disturbed over the non-arrival of his consorts as was the English Garrison. At day-break on Sept. 5th. three ships were visible, so pleased was

D'Iberville that he immediately raised anchor to join them. Imagine his surprise to find them English war-ships.

One of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of the war was at once begun. Nothing daunted D'Iberville, he attacked in the most strenuous way, sank one warship and another was wrecked in a storm that night, the other was also driven ashore.

D'Iberville, after enduring terrible hardship, landed his men. Had the English fort attacked him at once, they might have won, but soon after the French warships hoves in sight and with their help, D'Iberville fought and captured the fort and the English had to surrender to the famished Frenchmen on their own terms.

Now you know something of the man that our handful of two hundred Newfoundlanders were defying and who, with his trained soldiers, had come specially to crush the Nfld. trade and destroy English prestige.

Notwithstanding D'Iberville's defeat by the plucky Nflders on Carbonear Island, he continued his march right down the North-shore to Bay de Verde and across to Old Perlican and up Trinity Bay, capturing all the settlements to Hearts Content. He then left ten men in charge at Hearts Content and took his men across country to Carbonear to complete his victories by taking Carbonear Island.

On his arrival he found that the men on the Island had not been satisfied with defending their position but had even attacked the French and taken four prisoners.

On the 17th D'Iberville, finding he could not take the Island by fair means, suggested an exchange of prisons at a spot out of gun shot of the Island.

D'Iberville shows his treachery and his unscrupulousness on this occasion by raising a quibble with the English and seized their officers as prisoners while they were arranging the exchange. Notwithstanding the loss of their officers, the plucky garrison still held out. After waiting ten days till the 28th and finding that the Carbonear Islanders were more than a match for him, D'Iberville gave orders to burn



every house in Carbonear and Harbour Grace, he left for Hearts Content and with 200 prisoners they continued up Trinity Bay to Bay Bulls Arm where he crossed over to Placentia Bay and his army returned to Placentia.

I trust I have given some of the audience a new idea of the gallant fight our forefathers put up on that historic little island at the mouth of the harbour. Few of us know what a strong natural fortress we have there — Let us celebrate it now with a Pageant worthy of the occasion.

The next notice that I find of Carbonear is in 1705. The records are that in 1705 a new campaign was started by the French at Placentia under the Commander St. Ovide. Every place was captured or subdued, in fact, the whole trade of Nfld. was ruined.

M. Martigny with his Indians was dispatched to take Carbonear and Bonavista and to bury every settlement, and he carried it out in even a more terrible way than the former campaign as no quarters were given to any who opposed. But they met their Waterloo at Carbonear Island, this time it held 300 men and bid defiance to all attacks.

1709 — The next notice in the records is in 1709 when the British Government placed Pynn in command of the garrison on Carbonear Island.

1711 — This year we find a proclamation October 23rd., 1711 by Jos. Crowe who was Commander-in-Chief of Nfld. instructing the people of Conception Bay that for their better protection, they were to go to Carbonear Island, Harbour Grace Island and to Little Bell Island (Possible Crowe's Gulch near the Lighthouse at Carbonear was called after him).

1745 — About this time when the Jacobite Rebellion was in progress in England, the British authorities for reasons best known to themselves, started to put the fortifications on the island in efficient repair and Lieut. Griffith Williams of the Royal Army was stationed there. He was afterwards promoted to St. John's, where he lived for twelve or fourteen years, where he married, and Sir Robert Pinsent and Sir Monier Williams are his collateral descendants.

1762 — The British had again neglected the fortifications in Nfld. and the French made another raid on St. John's and captured it. The French

then sent a detachment across to Portugal Cove, who with shallows managed to take Carbonear Island by surprise, the first and only time that it was ever taken.

The British Government were taken completely by surprise at this time and had done nothing to defend any part of Nfld. and the French held possession from June till September.

The only one mentioned who did his best on this occasion at Carbonear Island was Justice Charles Garland of Harbour Grace. The few men who were on the Island were kept there at his expense at a time when provisions were almost unobtainable at any price. He was afterwards recompensed by the British Government and the Garland family have in their possession to this day the old documents containing their thanks for his imminent services.

This document is pasted on the inside of their old family Bible and is in the possession of Charles Garland now living in Boston.

1780 — The American Rebellion was in full swing now and many American privateersmen were hovering round and caused great damage to many places, and a number of attacks were made on Carbonear and Harbour Grace but they were successfully defended by the well-known batteries on Carbonear Island.

I have heard it said that some of the long underground cellars or tunnels at some of the Carbonear residences into the hill were built at this time to hide away their valuables, also provisions. I have never been in any of these cellars, and they may be older origin. It is quite possible that there may be some interesting family traditions about them.

1812 — During this American war, privateers made further attempts, but they got badly left as many of them were captured. The records have been so poorly kept that it is almost impossible to get a connected account, but I have done my best to give some information that I trust will only stimulate you to make further enquiries, as there are stories of information to be found out yet. The real history of Newfoundland is yet to be written. What our Historical Society wants are the stories and traditions of our past. Everyone of us knows that

## "Do You Know the Difference" Cont. from p. 3

by Paul O'Neill  
St. John's Historical Society

Monday, February 16th., is to be celebrated throughout Canada as Heritage Day. The Government of the national has designated this new special day to focus public attention on our heritage. Here, in Newfoundland, there is an organization which has been doing just that for seventy years and were it not for its efforts a great deal of the written record of our history would now be lost. I am speaking, of course, about the Historical Society of Newfoundland, of which I have the honour to be President.

The first real attempt to form a Newfoundland Historical Society would appear to have been in 1881. That year the editor of the Morning Chronicle, Francis Winton, caused printed notices to be sent to a large number of persons requesting their attendance at a meeting on the subject of establishing an Historical and Statistical Society in St. John's.

The Meeting was called at the Athenaeum Library, Thursday, January 13, at four o'clock. Mr. Winton introduced the matter. On the motion of Judge Pinsent, he was called to the chair, and the deliberations of the meeting resulted in the adoption of the following resolutions:

- (1) That it is highly desirable that an Historical and Statistical Society be established.
- (2) That a Committee be appointed to frame a constitution and to report at a future General Meeting.

Nfld. is advancing quickly into a new era of its existence that will eclipse all our previous efforts. Our trade has been crawling like a child learning to walk, now we are on the threshold of real strides of advancement. Before it is too late, let us gather together the old stories of the former existence of our country, for a country without a history can never reach the full attainments of its destiny. For, in the words of that great statesman Joseph Howe:

"A wise nation preserves its Records, establishes its Monuments, decorates the graves of its illustrious dead; repairs the great public structures, and fosters National pride and love of country, by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and 'glories of the past'."

- (3) That Mr. Justice Pinsent, Rev. Moses Harvey, Judge Prowse, Rev. William Pilot, Judge Conroy, J.J. Little and Francis Winton be the Committee.

- (4) That Judge Prowse be appointed Secretary of the Society.

Little or nothing was heard of the attempt after the 1881 meeting, and the organization seems to have soon become a literary institute. The first lecture, by the Lord Bishop, was on the Pharaohs of Egypt. Nearly a quarter of a century passed before the subject of a Newfoundland Historical Society was revived.

On November 30, 1905, a meeting was held in the Judge's Chambers at the Court House on Duckworth Street with the idea of forming a society to concern itself with the preservation of the Island's history. The Hon. J.J. Rogerson, who was then eighty-five years old was in the chair.

Following the meeting, the gentlemen dispersed to write a constitution for their organization which would be known as the Historical Society of Newfoundland. They lost very little time and the constitution was ready March 1, 1906.

From its inception the aims and objectives of the Historical Society of Newfoundland have been: the preservation of all printed books, manuscripts, records (or copies of such manuscripts and records, properly authenticated) having reference to the history of this Colony and its dependencies, in respect of its religious, social and political evolution; and in respect of its traditions, folklore, and local nomenclature; its fauna and flora, and physical geography.

It also aimed to have the reading at meetings of the Society of papers upon all subjects of historical interest. So far as it was deemed desirable and expedient the organization would undertake the publication of these talks and of all such papers as might tend to throw light upon the history and development of the Colony.

Finally, the Society would form a library of books, papers, manuscripts and records, pertinent to or illustrative of the history of the colony.



**Historical Society Cont'd.**

In November, 1919, the then President, H.W. LeMessurier, explained the Historical Society to what he termed "young and old alike, to student and teacher, to fisherman and farmer, to lettered and unlettered." In the flowery rhetoric which was then just going out of fashion, LeMessurier said:

"Newfoundland is the oldest sister to the Empire's family. There are younger Dominions and younger Colonies, but none which so abounds in the wealth of history and tradition. In many a hamlet nestling upon the shores of our glorious bays are spoken words familiar in the days of the Tudors and the Stuarts. The waters that wash our rock-bound coasts and the soil on which our people tread have witnessed deeds of the earlier Empire builders and, if gifted with speech, could tell tales rich in interest, in daring, and in adventure. Newfoundland's history dates back to the seventh Henry's days, and beyond to the days of the Norseman. Our sagas are unsung, our stories untold. Romance has been buried by the commonplace, and the chronicles of the fathers forgotten through the carelessness and indifference of the children. A few whisper of the olden days

but their number lessens with the passing years. There is scarcely a mile of the six thousand miles of our coast line but could tell of stirring deeds, but we have been content to let the history of five hundred or a thousand years be almost lost. Happily almost is not quite. There are still amongst us patriarchs who are handing down to their descendants traditions and stories that they in turn received from ancestors whose bones have long since mingled with their mother-earth. It is these stories, these traditions, the tales of the grandfathers, the stirring stories of five hundred years that the Historical Society wish to rescue from oblivion, so that when this generation has been gathered to the fathers, succeeding ones may know the manner and the method of those who amid privation and effort and energies rendered invaluable help to the establishment of the greatest Empire that has been."

You may ask . . . "What has been the story of the Historical Society from its founding in 1905 to the present day and how close has it come in 1976 to fulfilling the ideals of the founders as expounded by President LeMessurier in 1919? . . .

Over the years the organization has made amazing progress

as well as suffering set-backs and reverses. On two occasions it suspended activities for a period of time but, like the Phoenix emerged stronger than ever from the ashes of its ruin.

There were no activities held during World War One. Again after lying dormant from 1962, the present revival took place in 1966 due to the efforts of the late Arthur Johnson and Arthur Fox. A meeting was called in the Sir Robert Bond Auditorium in the Confederation Building Tuesday, April 26, 1966, for the 'revival' service. To drive out the demon of apathy the Presidency went to that incomparable exorcist, Premier J.R. Smallwood.

At the meeting, President Smallwood spoke of the urgency of capturing Newfoundland history, particularly since so large a portion of our people now had no knowledge of Newfoundland other than as a part of Canada. He spoke of the importance of dealing with history in segments, rather than as a whole, and the need to research each segment thoroughly. Harold Horwood presented to the meeting the outline of a special crash program. This programme had been designed by Farley Mowatt, Mr. Horwood and Dr. Leslie Harris, and it had been discussed with Premier Smallwood.

Briefly, it was to be an undertaking to preserve, principally on tape, the raw materials of history. This would be done by means of teams of skilled interviewers, as well as the collection of diaries, business records, ships' logs, photographs, paintings, correspondence and other historical documents and materials. The program would undertake as completely as possible the recreation and reclamation of Newfoundland history available today. The material would be deposited, edited and filed in the Archives. It would form the basis of Newfoundland studies at the University. What was worthy of publication would be utilized. In all, it would also be a great spur to further research.

Since its inception the Society has provided a forum for the presentation of research, a centre for the collection of stimulating data, and has played a most important role in the stimulating and maintaining of interest in Newfoundland history. Its role is distinct from that of other historical associations in the province in that it is concerned with the written record of the history of Newfoundland and Labrador. It does complement, assist and co-operate with other historical associations in carrying out such aims as the preservations of our physical heritage.

**Guess Where?**