



West Hants Historical Society Newsletter

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President's Message



November 2011 Issue

Executive:

President-**Rev. David Curry**
Vice President-**Garnet Clarke**
2nd Vice President- **Jeff Barrett**
Past President-**Don Sheehan**
Secretary- **Isabel Palmeter**
Treasurer- **John Brownless**

Committee Chairpersons:

Building: **Elliott Daniels**
Programs: **Veronica Connelly**
Publications: **Sherri Allen**
Fundraising: **Jeff Barrett**
Genealogy: **Open**
Membership/Newsletter: **Open**

Winter Hours

Nov 30th, Dec 7th & Dec 10th

Wednesday

10 am to 3 pm.

Closed rest of December and also closed January and February 2012. Open only by appointment during these months. Please contact the society by phone or e-mail.

Dear friends,

"The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, gang aft agley" – often go awry, Robert Burns noted in his poem, *To A Mouse*. And so it often seems! The November 10th public meeting, featuring the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Windsor, Louis Coutinho, was unfortunately cancelled or at least, I hope, merely postponed. There was some anxiety that it might have been a bit confrontational. Our interest was in having a speaker and in allowing for the proposed town meeting style format. Perhaps there will be another opportunity in February.

The Remembrance Day commemorations did not happen at the Windsor Cenotaph for the second year in a row because of the weather, and what wild weather it was! A dark and stormy day! The commemorations were held instead in the Legion Hall.

The Society salutes and thanks *Edna Musial* for her many years of service on the membership file for the Society and *Lilla Siderius* for her hard work and dedication in the genealogy department of the Museum. They have both decided that it is time to step down. We are most grateful for their labours of love over the years. We hope, though, that they will often be around to grace us with their presence and their expertise! And of course, we are always happy to have new volunteers.

As I write, we have all been a bit surprised by the sudden burst of total winter, though, I suppose, in good Maritime fashion, the weather will change if we wait five minutes! Certainly, we will have to wait and see when the work planned for the tower of the Museum can be completed. Despite the wind and rain, the snow and sleet, we shall press on! The next public meeting will be on Thursday, December 1st at 7:30pm. The speaker will be Jim Bremner on Castle Frederick, a talk well worth hearing, I have been told. The Board will meet at 6:30. All welcome.

(Rev'd) David Curry
President, WHHS



Castle Frederick Farm
Oil painting by Dr. Garth
Vaughn 2009



Dec 1, 2011 Thursday

6:30 p.m. Board members meet

7:30 p.m. Speaker of the month will be **Mr. Jim Bremner**

Subject: **Castle Frederick Farm**



Mr. Bremner is the 7th generation on this farm situated in Falmouth, NS. He is a descendant of Colonel Joseph Frederick Walle DesBarres (1721-1824). The farm is currently used as a cattle and sheep farm with over 250 acres of pasture, productive marshlands and woodland.

Meeting is open to the public. A light lunch will follow. Please use the side entrance at 281 King Street, Windsor, NS

Annual Fundraiser for 2012

On March 24, 2012, our society will hold its Annual Heritage Banquet. For over twenty-five years, the banquet has been held as a way of celebrating the rich history of our area. It will be a roast beef dinner with pie for dessert. Our special speaker will be Terri McCulloch **of the Bay of Fundy tourism**. More details will follow soon.

Below are a few of the photos from our last dinner which was held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Windsor, NS.

Windsor's Town Crier Lloyd Smith
Below Centre



Please note there will be no newsletter for the month of December. For those who wish to give membership as a gift, our form is on the last page.



Trecothick Creek By John D. Wilson

The stream rises in the high ground south of Curry's Corner and meanders north, skirting the old part of town, emptying into the St. Croix River near Nesbitt Street. Its route has been altered over the years to accommodate roads, the railway and various developments until today it flows neglected, cluttered with garbage, a mere ditch. But it once had a more useful purpose.

On a small hill overlooking the stream the Acadians built the parish church of l'Assomption. The graveyard being located nearby. The church and graveyard are long ago desecrated, destroyed and forgotten. Its name during the Acadian period is unknown, but its rather unique current name is a reminder of a bygone era when the province was a small British colony, opening up to immigration.

Beginning in 1758, the colonial government of Nova Scotia began a serious attempt at settlement. The initiative was quite successful in attracting settlers. It also attracted land speculators who acquired huge land grants, perhaps the most notorious of these being Col. Alexander McNutt. But there were others, including such luminaries as Benjamin Franklin, who was a principal in the Philadelphia Company which acquired a land grant of 200,000 acres in the Tatamagouche area. In addition there were several wealthy entrepreneurs who purchased land from original grantees for investment purposes. One of these was Barlow Trecothick of Boston and London.

It appears that Capt. Charles Proctor owed Trecothick £1,867. On February 25, 1767 Proctor assigned several parcels of land in Nova Scotia to Trecothick as repayment of this debt. Among these were lots of land at Pisiquid that Proctor had acquired in 1759 as part of the Maugher-Franklin grant. Part of Proctor's grant lay along the St. Croix River between Fort Edward hill and the mouth of the stream. The stream, which acquired its name from its new owner, bisected the first lot between the river and Wentworth Road.

Barlow Trecothick was born in Boston in 1719 and lived there until 1741. By 1750 he was a merchant in London trading with the colonies. He engaged in politics and became Lord Mayor of London in 1770. A friend of Benjamin Franklin, he was an advocate for the Colonial cause, opposing the Stamp Act and other punitive measures. Trecothick married twice but had no children. Prior to his death in 1775 he willed his estate to various charities as well as to family members and friends. He offered much of his estate to his sister's son, John Ivers, on the condition that he take the surname of Trecothick. Thus John Ivers became John Ivers Trecothick.

Following John Ivers Trecothick's death in 1846, his children engaged prominent Windsor lawyer, Lewis Wilkins, to dispose of his local assets. On December 1, 1848 Wilkins, on behalf of the inheritors of the Trecothick estate, sold several parcels of land in the Windsor Area. The purchasers included; the trustees of the Presbyterian Church of St. John's; Edward King, Monson Goudge, Perez Cunningham, William Dill, and Archibald Edmonstone.

It is doubtful that Barlow Trecothick ever set foot in Windsor, but, after 245 years, the small creek within the town limits still carries his name. Perhaps, this historic site can someday be reclaimed to its natural state as a trout stream and a nature trail.

We may have an identification for the below left photograph. One of our members believes this man could be Sheriff William Curry. Our two other photos remain unknown.



LEFT: POSSIBLY SHERIFF WILLIAM CURRY CURRENTLY UNKNOWN

Still being Remembrance Day month, we thought we would ask for your assistance in identifying these lost soldiers. It is quite possible that the people are not from the Hants County area. So, if you think you know any of these photos, please contact us.



Query:

Searching for descendants of the following Dorman siblings: Joseph(Mary Marsters), David (Priscilla Smith), Maria (Robert Harvie), Eliza (Loran Smith), Abigail (William Beckwith), Harriet (Hanley Frizzle), Mary Ann (Jacob Harvie), and Lucy (William Cromwell Duncanson). Please reply by e-mail to Lynn at dormanreunion@hotmail.com

Hants' & Kings County Gazette - Typed as originally printed.

Land for Sale: The subscriber offers for Sale, One Hundred Acres of Land, situate on the Ardoise Hill, on the South side of the new Road leading from the Halifax Post Road across to Wallaces' Inn, being part of a five hundred acre Lot commonly called the DILL FARM, bounded as follows, on the west by Lodowick Hunters land, north by the above named new road, east by land of Abraham Marsters, and to continue south as far as said Marsters land extends. -Application to be made to HARRY KING Esq. at his office in Windsor. W.M.C. KING.
Windsor, Feb 15, 1834

The Windsor Mail June 1883

Dry Times.-The water in Windsor has given out and there is nothing now left to quench the thirst with but little drops of polliwog water.

Hants Journal Jan 24, 1884 Mt. Denson

Great sympathy is felt for the death of young Daniel Goss. He came from the lumber woods a fortnight ago with one foot frozen. The trouble had been neglected or not been properly treated. But his death (from lockjaw) took everyone by surprise. He was 17 years of age.

Mr Elisha Michener has just received an insurance on his house destroyed by fire (reported in the Journal in Oct, the amount was but 400 dollars in sovereign Company); but to Mr Michener, it is of great help after the fire.

Hants Journal March 20, 1884 -About Town Typed as originally printed

It should be known throughout Windsor that Mr Millet will hold an exhibition tomorrow (Friday afternoon at 3 p.m.) in the Temperance hall with a view to explaining in a practical way the method of using his washing machine. In this time when ladies are obliged to do much of their own housework every assistance ought to be given. We can say with the knowledge of a similar machine in their own family during the eight years past that it saves an immense amount of labor and time. Do not forget the time and place.

Hants Journal April 1931

This year the bag limit on deer has been increased to two of either sex. This step was taken to aid the farmer more than to comply with the hunter's wishes.

Hants Journal Aug 1931

The caterpillar crop is a whopper this year. Everywhere this pest seems to have loged in countless millions and that's not an exaggeration.

Hants Journal Oct, 1931

Seven shots fired in rapid succession about a mile north of Hubley Station on Mon told of the doings of some hunters who were beating the season by a few days.

West Hants Historical Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of Nov 10, 2011

We have received all summer student grant monies except for one final payment of \$5500.00 from Parks Canada. The summer program was so successful, that we are hoping to be able to receive the same number of grants for 2012 season. It was agreed that we will need a hiring committee because of the high volume of applications we received for 2011. The 84th Encampment expressed a wish to return to Windsor next year.

Membership is three quarters digital now with one quarter relying on the method of phoning for upcoming events and meetings. June Newton and Helen Hendry are our callers for these people. We thank them very much for all the years they have given us for this task. Corporate Membership was also discussed. Jeff Barrett agreed to make these contacts and David Curry agreed to consult with him on an appropriate message to leave with intended prospects.

Lilla Siderius who has been with us for 18 years, has now stepped down from her volunteer job as genealogist. She will be very much missed. Due to the low volume of visitors last year during the winter months, it was decided to close the genealogy department from Dec 21, 2011 to March 1, 2012. This will also help with our heating and electricity costs. We will be open by appointment only during this time period.

It was felt that our insurance rates should be a bit lower and Jeff Barrett agreed to look into this further. Looking at fees from other insurance companies was an option.

We currently have four renters using the downstairs rooms: Four Seasons Community Orchestra; the Dorian Hall Academy of Music for student lessons; St. John's Catholic Church for Sunday school; and Quick As a Wink Theatre Group for their practices.

Our steeple is yet to be repaired. Elliot Daniels will contact the carpenter doing this job.

