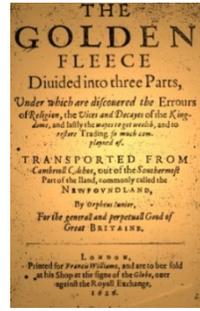


# THE SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN TRUST INCORPORATED BULLETIN



16 September 2013 - Vol 1. No. 3

## ***Message from the Chair***

This is the third Bulletin issued by The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated. These Bulletins are meant to update you on The Trust's activities and plans. Since the last Bulletin, The Trust has made great progress, culminating in the archaeological testing program starting today (see details below). It was a tremendous summer and I wish to thank, the Board of Directors, our community partners, Lower Coast residents and other individuals for their valuable contributions of time and interest in getting the archaeological testing project up and running. Congratulations one and all!



## ***The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated Project Activities***

### **Lower Coast Community Engagement Meeting**

C. Martin and T. Fosnaes, accompanied by Trepassey Mayor Con Finlay and Archaeologist R. Fleming, met with Lower Coast residents and other landowners on September 13 at the Southern Avalon Development Association board room in the Trepassey Opportunities Complex. Thanks to the efforts of SADA Director Yvonne Fontaine, a notice of the meeting sent to all Lower Coast residences resulted in, according to Mayor Finlay, "nearly all residents of the Lower Coast" in attendance. The Trust's Community Partners were represented as well as Father Peter Golden who expressed great interest in the proceedings of The Trust as he once served a parish in Cardiff, Wales, and has knowledge of Welsh history and affairs. Mr. Fosnaes welcomed everyone and introduced The Trust members and passed a signup sheet around the table.



1919 north view of Trepassey Harbour showing the US Navy support ships for the first ever trans-Atlantic flight

Mr. Martin spoke about The Trust and its objectives. He outlined the nature of the research conducted to date, emphasizing the international connections already established between Newfoundland, Wales and Ireland. He spoke of the acceptance and interest in The Trust's activities and how they dovetail into research initiatives here and abroad.

Mr. Fosnaes outlined the historic resources potential of the Lower Coast and stressed how any area with a 500 year history has great archaeological potential. Trepassey Bay and

Harbour, he suggested, were important locations in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the common focus, and boundary between, the English and French shores of the time. The knowledge gained by the testing could eventually be the basis for historical tourism opportunities, he concluded.

Ms. Fleming spoke of the process of historical resource testing and archaeological research. The 2013 program is a preliminary “testing” process using small (one foot square) test pits to determine the presence of historical artifacts. Possible results would be clay pipe pieces, pottery sherds, glass, buttons, coins, and so on, left behind by wall builders. Such objects can be dated and thereby give some indication of the age of the walls. She indicated her report would be available mid-October.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Fosnaes led a discussion about the report and committed to releasing it to the Town and Lower Coast residents in a meeting around the end of October.

Mr. Martin asked for a show of hands “if you have an interest in this” and was met with all hands raising their hands. He said The Trust is a membership based organization and, once the report is in, Lower Coast residents and others my wish to join. A letter outlining membership benefits will accompany the report when it is released. Mr. Fosnaes asked for concerns or questions about the testing program and put the question, “Does anyone have any objection to the testing program?” No objection was raised.



North aerial view of Trepassey Harbour ca.1940

The meeting adjourned after Mayor Finlay had a final word about how the historic potential of the walls, regardless of their age, was a surprise to him when he first met The Trust representatives in the spring and he indicated Trepassey residents, now further introduced to The Trust, were interested and supportive. Some Lower Coast residents volunteered to check with Ms. Fleming while she was in the field, offering cups of tea, tools, and any other assistance she needed.

### **Topographic Survey**

Newfoundland Land Surveyor David Vallis volunteered his time and equipment to conduct a *topographic* survey of the Lower Coast walls. As his busy season was early this year he was unable to get started in the spring but plans to be in the field by the end of September. He will coordinate his activities with Ms. Fleming to ensure all survey and testing data matches up. The topographic survey will give information as to the actual size of the walls, their elevation, and importantly, their volume. When matched against the test pit data and mapped on paper, The Trust will be able to predict and propose the next phases and areas of archaeological research in the Lower Coast.



## Research Program

In early September Mr. Martin and The Trust Board member R. Lewis met with Dr. Richard Stone of the University of Bristol, whose work involves searching English archives for references to Newfoundland settlement. While his field is economic history, he agreed to include The Trust on relevant materials uncovered. He is associated with Dr. Peter Pope, MUN professor of archaeology and history and The Trust Board member, on other international projects. Dr. Stone showed great interest in The Trust and its activities and indicated the meeting nicely capped off his Newfoundland visits to Brigus, Cupids, Ferryland and Renew's and a couple of days spent at the QEII Library at MUN.



## International Virtual Symposium on Early Modern Wales and Newfoundland 2012

IVS EMWN 2012 remains available for new postings and comments. As of this writing a new paper "The Dao of Newfoundland" is posted. Prepared by T. Fosnaes, The Trust Board member and Treasurer, the paper provides a commentary and explanation of Mason's 1620 Discourse on Newfoundland.

Send papers or other material as .PDF files to [papers@swvp.ca](mailto:papers@swvp.ca).

Send comments or discussion about IVS submissions to [comments@swvp.ca](mailto:comments@swvp.ca).



## Recent Readings

*Execution: A History of Capital Punishment in Britain* by Simon Webb. The History Press, Port Stroud, 2012.

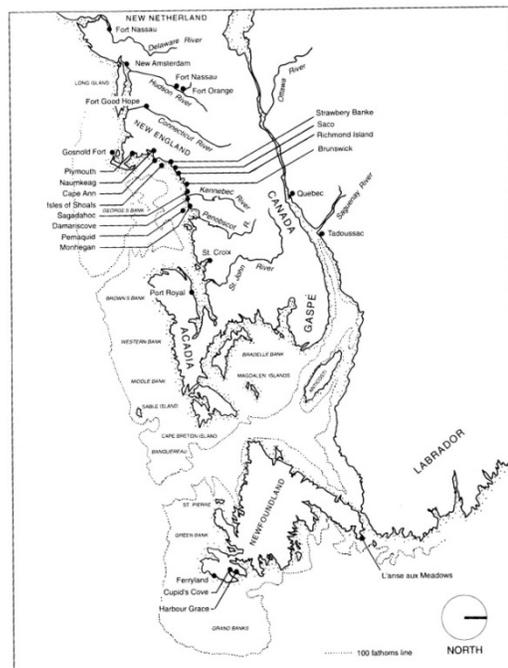
*Decidedly not for the faint of heart in its gruesome descriptions of state executions and what people went through before the ax fell, it does provide good insights into the methods used (hanging was for commoners; beheading by ax or sword for nobles; and burning for witches). Surprising is the relatively few noble people who were executed over six centuries, perhaps that is what makes them stand out in history.*

*Seventeenth-Century Europe; State, Conflict and the Social Order 1598-1700* by Thomas Munck. Palgrave MacMillan, Basingstoke, 2005.

*One of Pat Curran's "heavy slogging" examples, it provides good insight into the social climate of the Early Modern period, the Royal intrigues, power grabs, and outright skulduggery of the times. Lots of poison, knives in the back, exiles, lifelong incarcerations and other stories abound.*

*American beginnings: Exploration, Culture, and Cartography in the Land of Norumbega*, edited by Emerson W. Baker, Edwin A. Churchill, Richard S. d'Abate, Kristine L. Jones, Victor A. Conrad, Harald E.L. Prins. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and London, 1994.

*A tremendous look at the Northeast Coast of North America in three parts; the colonizers, the aboriginals, and the settlers. Norumbega was the original name for what eventually became New England which stretched from Newfoundland to the Carolinas. It includes a unique view of North America, that looking directly west from Europe, the view understood by the early explorers (see image). If one looks at early maps of Newfoundland from this perspective it is apparent why the Island was shown as it was. The illustration is based on the work of D.W. Meinig in *Shaping America*, Vol. 1.*



*The Governor and the Rebel, a history of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia*, by Wilcomb E. Washburn. The University of North Carolina Press, 1957, and the Norton Library, 1972.

*By the late 1600's English colonies in New England were already champing at the bit of Freedom and this story of military-colonial strife and misunderstanding is a precursor, a century before, to the American Revolution. It describes the flavour of the times and people who came to the New World. Newfoundland at the time was under the thumb of the English fish merchants and greatly underdeveloped politically and economically by New England standards. One wonders if it changed much in the following three centuries.*

*The Reformation: A Narrative History Related by Contemporary Observers and Participants*, edited by Hans Hillebrand. Baker Brook House, Grand Rapids, 1972.

*England under Henry VII, Mary, and Elizabeth was just one more nation evolving away from the toothless Roman Empire and the power of the Popes. With Knox, More, Foxe and Cranmer thrown into the mix the English Reformation was more about secular power and controlling Church money as it was about Royal marriage and the perfidies of inheritance..*

*The European Discovery of America: The Northern Voyages* by Samuel Eliot Morison. Oxford University Press, New York, 1971.

*Always a good read, especially as a touchstone for other views and understanding, Morison is the classic and most accepted view of European exploration of the New World from the first millennium Norse and Irish, through Columbus and Cabot to Raleigh, Drake and Grenville. Morison puts Cabot and the Matthew in Trepassey Bay on his first voyage of discovery and makes Cape Pine his furthest south achievement and Cape St. Mary's his furthest west. Cabot knew his latitude and estimated he was due west of the mouth of the Gironde River in the Bordeaux region of France.*



Looking north over the Lower Coast's stone walls and structures. Photo by C. Martin 2008.