

THE SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN TRUST INCORPORATED BULLETIN



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Message from the Chair

This is the fourth 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 archaeological testing program is completed and the report is in hand. It is being presented to Lower Coast residents and The Trust's partners and is posted on The Trust's website. The Board thanks the Innovation, Business and Rural Development for its support of the archaeological field programs of 2013 and 2014.

The Board welcomes Con O'Brien, the *Irish Descendant*, as a member and private supporter of The Trust; his cash contribution will help The Trust continue its work.



The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated Project Activities

Lower Coast Archaeological Testing Project

Archaeologist Robyn Fleming, who hails from nearby St. Vincent's-St. Stephen's-Peter's River, presented her field report to The Trust on 11 November 2013. A digest is attached to this Bulletin.

The report details the findings from 92 test pits (a 50cm wide hole dug to undisturbed ground) around the stone structures of the Lower Coast including eight west of the Powle's Point Road and four at Valna Fad. The report sets a list of areas and priorities for further archaeological testing in 2014.

Artifacts recovered included ceramic material dating from the early 19th century and clay pipe stems which could be from the early 18th century found in test pits at the north end (closest to the community houses) of the study area.

Lower Coast Topographic Survey and Map

Vallis Surveys Ltd conducted a *topographic* survey of the Lower Coast walls and provided The Trust with a topographic map, including the archaeological test pits. A full sized copy of the map is available at <http://www.lowercoast.ca/13286.pdf> along with a report of dimensional data for 920 metres of walls and structures on the east side of the Powle's Point Road. A tremendous contribution, it will aid all future archaeological and geographical study of the area.



Research Program

At The Trust Board meeting held 17 November the 2014 research program was discussed. Research chair Dr. P. Pope and Archaeologist R. Fleming, will establish a renewed archaeological research program for The Trust to be delivered by 31 January 2014. Once this is approved by the Board the always thorny process of raising funds will be started. The Innovation, Business and Rural Renewal funding was only partially used in 2013 and the Board will ask for an extension to cover some of the 2014 field season. The Board hopes for an extended field season in 2014.

Overseas research slowed during the summer and fall but in January C. Martin's contacts with academics and researchers in Wales, Ireland and England will stoke the fires and hopefully result in exciting discoveries about Sir William Vaughan and his Newfoundland plantations.

The Trust established an ancillary site in 2013 (lowercoast.ca); an analysis of the 2013 Vallis topographic map, the 2012 field trip report, and lots of pictures and maps are there.



International Virtual Symposium on Early Modern Wales and Newfoundland 2012

IVS EMWN 2012 remains available for new postings and comments. Recent additions include *The Welsh Connections of Tudor England*, with links to Wikipedia articles for the main characters and *The Mists of Time: What happened to William Vaughan?* both by Tor Fosnaes, Treasurer of The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated. The first develops and illustrates the family and business connections between Vaughan and the Royal Court, the latter looks at an early 18th century account of Vaughan, demonstrating that even a century after his death he was already an elusive character.

Send papers or other material as .PDF files to papers@swvp.ca.

Send comments or discussion about IVS submissions to comments@swvp.ca.



Recent Readings

An Archaeology of Southwest Ireland 1570-1670 by Colin Breen. Four Courts Press, Dublin. 2007.

An interesting perspective on early *plantation-ing*; the lessons learned in 16th century Ireland were to play an important part in the 17th century settlement and planting of the New World, including Newfoundland and New England. Whereas the Ireland experience used the infrastructure of the displaced Irish, the New World was built from scratch. Depictions of a typical planting enterprise (30 to 50 people; goods, animals, and tools of enterprise) are remarkably similar to the New World records. Just what a blow the loss of one ship was to Vaughan's efforts in 1617 can be appreciated when the compactness and precision required for these efforts are understood.

The Establishment of the European Hegemony 1415-1715: Trade and Exploration in the Age of the Renaissance by J.H. Parry. Hutchinson & Company, London, 1949, Harper & Row, New York, 1961.

While the book concentrates on global empire building and the European efforts in the New World there are interesting relationships drawn between European trade and commerce and on-the-ground developments in colonies, settlements, and plantations. Newfoundland's role is depicted primarily as fish (no surprise there) but what is interesting is that there is a fairly comprehensive review of Portuguese (Biscayans, French and Spanish) use of the Grand Banks long before English attention.

The Newfoundland settlements were not at first particularly prosperous or particularly important, and they led to perpetual quarrelling over foreshore rights; but they survived, and developed as a permanent British colony [emphasis added] (p.105).

ATLANTIC: Great sea battles, heroic discoveries, titanic storms, and a vast ocean of a million stories by Simon Winchester. HarperCollins, New York, 2010.

Newfoundland fish and its collapse in the early 1990's make up most of the references to Newfoundland in this otherwise entertaining book.

The British Empire in America containing the history of the discovery, settlement, progress and state of the British colonies on the continent and islands of America. 2d ed., cor. and amended / with the continuation of the history, and the variation in the state and trade of those colonies, from the year 1710 to the present time; including occasional remarks, and the most feasible and useful methods for their improvement and security by John Oldmixon. Printed for J. Brotherton, J. Clarke, London, 1741.

This was discovered online at <http://archive.org/stream/britishempireina01oldm#page/n59/mode/2up>. It was used to create the Fosnaes IVS paper mentioned above.

William Vaughan's Fifteen Directions to preserve Health

1. Stretch yourself.
2. Rub yourself.
3. Go to stool.
4. Put on your clothes.
5. Comb your head.
6. Clean your teeth.
7. Wash. The best remedy for dim sight.
8. Say your Prayers.
9. Set to work. Be honest.
10. Eat only three meals a day. Eat light food before heavy. Drink hinders digestion. Use silver cups.
11. Don't work directly after meals, but talk, wash, and clean your teeth.
12. Undress by the fire in winter.
13. Before bed, chew Mastic, and
14. Pray to God. Look at your water in a Urinal. Have a hole in your nightcap.
15. Against rheums, eat white pepper.

Found in John Russel's *English Meals and Manners* by various authors at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/24790/24790-h/24790-h.htm>. This 1865 compilation of early English writings about health and lifestyle was edited by Frederick J. Furnivall of Cambridge.

The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail by W. Jeffrey Bolster. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. 2012.

The Journey Through Wales and The Description of Wales by Gerald of Wales. Translated by Lewis Thorpe. Penguin Classics, Penguin Classics, London. 1978.

This 1188 work and Gerald's 1185 similar work on Ireland are entertaining and informative about these two countries geography, topography, peoples, cultures, history and character.

The Widening Gate by David Harris Sacks. University of California Press, Berkley. 1993.

Subtitled Bristol and the Atlantic Economy 1450 to 1700 it deals with Newfoundland only in passing, indicating Bristol wasn't involved to any great extent in the West Country merchants' control and exploitation of Newfoundland after the mid 16th century. An informative read about shipping and the English fish trade nonetheless.



**THE SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN TRUST INCORPORATED
WISHES EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY 2014.**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT (abridged)

Introduction

Archaeologist Robyn Fleming with a local field assistant spent 7 days (September 16-22, 2013) on the Lower Coast conducting an archaeological assessment of the stone walls and features located there (see Figure 1, an aerial view showing the structures). In all 92 test pits were dug, 82 on the east site (now designated CeAi-03 by the Provincial Archaeology Office); 6 on the west side (CeAi-04), and 4 at Valna Fad.

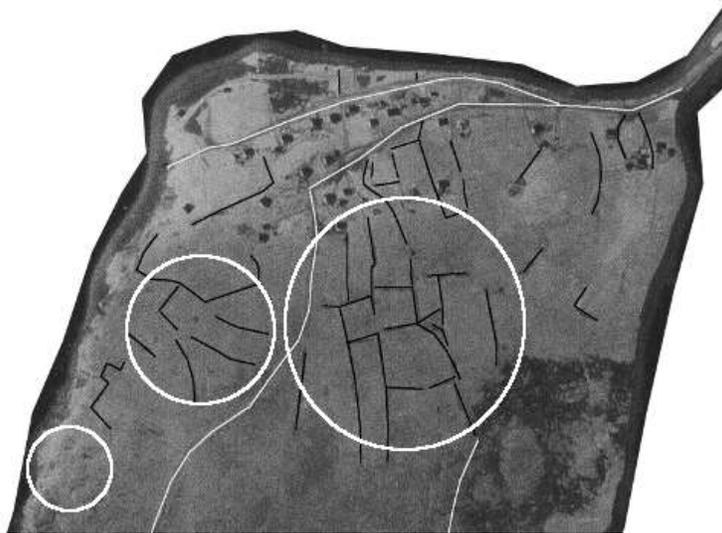


Figure 1: Aerial view (north up) of Lower Coast; the subject areas inside the white circles; the stone walls and structures are enhanced in black.

The Fleming report, which will be submitted to the Provincial Archaeology Office as part of the terms of the Archaeological Research Permit granted by that agency, was digested to create the **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT** at swvp.ca and, from that, this abridgement which omits the test pit data.

Methodology

A test pit, sometimes called *shovel archaeology*, is a preliminary method of determining the presence of historic resources in a study area. First the sod, and then soil, is removed, usually by trowel, and sifted or otherwise gone through for artifacts which can include metal, ceramic, glass, bone, wood, worked stone, and other man-made or man-modified materials. Usually about 50cm square, test pits can be extended if something interesting is discovered or if boulders are encountered. Test pits are dug to an undisturbed (also called sterile) soil layer, but rarely go deeper than about 50cm; in the Lower Coast most test pits were about 30cm deep.

Test pit reports show the thickness of the sod and humus layer, then the thickness of the strata (layers) of soils below and the depth of the top of the sterile layer. In the Lower Coast study area sod thicknesses ranged from 3cm to 10cm. Stratum 1 thickness ranged from 5cm to 36cm; stratum 2 (not always present) from <1cm to 44cm; stratum 3 from <1cm to 28cm. A few had stratum 4, usually not completely covering the surface area of the pit bottom.

Thickness of various strata vary, so some are reported as a range of thicknesses from one side to the other; in some cases a stratum may be just a thin layer of color between two other strata.

Artifacts are reported as found at a certain depth below surface (top of the sod) and in a particular stratum or sometimes between two strata. Generally artifacts that fell on the surface of the ground are older the deeper they are uncovered in the pit.



Test pit 73 dug during the 2013 archaeological assessment.

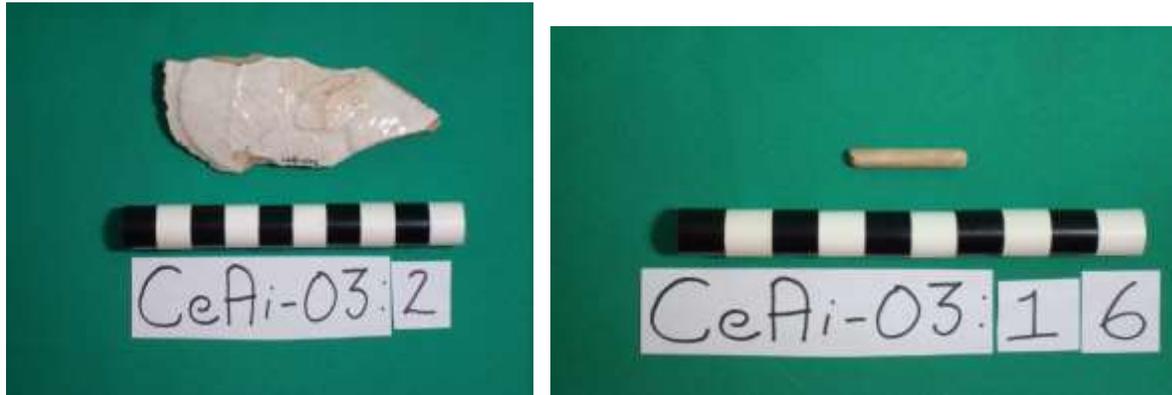
The various strata are analyzed to create cross-sections of the study area strata and assist future efforts by indicating higher priority areas, based on soil strata thickness and, of course, artifact discovery. In the Lower Coast study area the oldest artifacts (pipe stems) were discovered near the north end, closest to the existing houses.



Figure 2: Map of the study (north up) are showing structure labels and test pit locations.

Artifacts

Artifacts were found in 17 test pits and include glass fragments, ceramic sherds dating from the early 19th century and clay pipe stems thought to date to the early 18th century, nails of indeterminate age, a wooden fence post and a wooden peg, and some modern glass metal and plastic.



White stoneware with leaf and flower relief mold from test pit 2 (left) and clay pipe stem from test pit 16 (right).

Conclusions

The primary objective of the survey was to add to the knowledge of Trepassey cultural history, specifically as it relates to early settlement and land use. Evidence from CeAi-03 and CeAi-04 indicate the Lower Coast was used by the resident population, many of whom were Irish or had Irish ancestry. Construction of the fences by a former Irish population would not be surprising as double stone walls are present on the Irish landscape (McAfee 1997). Both CeAi-03 and CeAi-04 contain dry stone fence works which due to the absence of cultivated land were undoubtedly used to shelter and restrict the movement of livestock.

No artifacts were recovered from the 19th century settlement site, known locally as Valna Fad. If local residents' information is accurate it is possible that the people who resided there were also involved in the construction and use of the west fences works. A more detailed examination of Valna Fad will shed light on this supposition.

Other features of the Lower Coast include the beach and barrisway-like isthmus that would have provided ample room for drying fish. Archaeological testing closer to the beach might return evidence of an earlier occupation. Due to current settlement, disturbance may be a factor however it was just south of the settlement where two pipe stems suggesting an early date were recovered. In addition, an overgrown path known locally as Curries Lane runs along Fence 4 and extends north to the beach. Testing along the lane would add to the knowledge of use of the Lower Coast.