



The Griffin

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IN MEMORIUM -

MISS GWENDOLYN SHAND, who died on August 5, 1982 at the age of 91 was a long time member of Heritage Trust, who had been active in several projects especially in the early years. Miss Shand will be remembered for her extensive writings on the history of Windsor and Hants County. She contributed valuable material on Hants County to the Heritage Trust publication Seasoned Timbers Vol. I.

Heritage Trust is one of several beneficiaries in her will, which makes bequests to such other provincial historical institutions as the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia Museum to which the Shand house at Ferry Hill was bequeathed with certain stipulations.

PROGRAMME NOTES -

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 8.00 PM in the Auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street.

October 21 -

Part II: Lunenburg's Commercial Buildings and Churches. An illustrated talk by Mr. W. Plaskett (Part I; Houses of Lunenburg was given last year).

November 18 -

History and Restoration of Prescott House. Speaker Mr. K.D. Gilmour, Curator Branch Museums. We hope to have a display of the rare apples introduced to the area by Prescott.

December 16 -

A special evening with a Victorian flavour. More on this later

TANCOOK ISLAND TOUR -

The promised new ferry was not yet running on the day the Trust held its tour and we rather overloaded the facilities. The ferry seemed to be going back and forth all day instead of making the routine two trips each way. A folk-concert on the island that day added to the traffic.

An ageing and decrepit van, driven by Lesley Butters for the benefit of the not-so-able or those of us who ran out of steam later in the afternoon, moved Trust members from point to point all day.

Our first stop was at the home of Dr. Ian and Mrs. Maxwell who over the last few years have lovingly restored the house and garden. The house contains many pieces of original furniture and carpet. A number of Walter Cross's carvings were on view. The rose garden was particularly intriguing; sunk below ground level in an old foundation, the walls lined with rock carried up from the beach, two 'teardrop' shaped beds in the centre, all seen to advantage from the house but protected from the salt seawinds by being below ground level.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pearl, neighbours of the Maxwell's assisted in telling the house's history. Warren Pearl is one of Tancook's famous boatbuilders and his wife, Olive, renowned for her crafts.

Most of us visited the workshop of Walter Cross, who spends his days carving and painting birds, and making bowls and candlesticks. Interesting burls and driftwood, with the addition of his colourful bird carvings, make attractive decorator pieces

The other old house visited was that of Joyce Galloway. The house on the reef, when Joyce first discovered it, was, she was told, only 'fit for burning'. The lady did not agree even though half the roof was off and she fell through the floor at one point. Today it is a beautiful little home, snug and cosy, with a magnificent iron and nickel-plated wood stove highlighting the kitchen. Everything Joyce needs has to be packed in over the back of the property, dropped off at the top of the hill then transported about 75 yards or more down to her house. The rocking chair she hauled down on her back! Her "before and after" snapshot album is well worth looking through.

Her garden was another little miracle. She had dug a yard-wide bed to form a square around a large lawn, and is collecting and planting as many 'old' type plants as possible in the style of an English country garden. In that rocky soil?! It was beautiful, even though last winter's frost killed her roses which did not have the protection afforded by the garden plan of the Maxwell's.

The Baptist Church, constituted in 1855 and dedicated in 1867 has an intriguing point - one can scramble around inside the present roof to see the original roof and a view of Lunenburg.

While many members wandered around the island 'exploring' the remainder took advantage of the tea and coffee available on the Maxwell's lawn, and spent their afternoon enjoying the charm of that spot and the magnificent view over the water.

A fine sunny day, but rather chilly waiting on the wharf for the overworked ferry, still plying backwards and forwards well into the evening.



TANCOOK - A few Historical
Notes -

Tancook Island, taken from the Micmac "Uktancook" means Great Rock Facing the Sea.

To the English it was originally known as Queen Charlotte's Island, when it, together with Little Tancook and Starr Island were first granted to Patrick Sutherland. It was later "escheated for non-performance of the conditions imposed" and the three islands granted to John H. Fleiger and George Grant in 1792. "To Mr. Fleiger the western part of Great Tancook... comprising 279 acres: also the north-eastern half of Little Tancook... 50 acres, and the whole of Starr Island - one acre - in all 330 acres," "To Mr. Grant... the eastern part of Great Tancook... 280 acres and the south-western half of Little Tancook, 50 acres - in all 330 acres..."

In the 1800's Lunenburg Germans used the islands - first to dry fish on the stony beaches, later to settle - where, through their industry and resourcefulness, they prospered as fishermen and farmers.

Fertile land, good water, rich fishing, an abundance of wild-fowl and hardwood enabled those hardy mariners to become almost self-sufficient by the end of the 19th century.

A school was established as early as 1820 with Thomas Gibson as schoolmaster. By 1872 a schoolhouse for about 100 pupils was built. In 1867 a postal way office was established. A breakwater, built in 1872, "cost \$4,000, one-half granted by the Dominion, and half by the Provincial Legislature. The Commissioners were George W. Richardson and Albert Pearl..."

Boatbuilding thrived well into this century, Tancook boats were noted for their fine qualities and the ability of the men who handled them in rough weather. Particularly

well-known were the Tancook Whalers, designed and built for generations by the Mason, Langille and Stevens families. In the 1890's whalers were bought by the military for racing purposes. Randolph Stevens began his world-famous sailmaking business on Tancook in the early 1900's, in the winter using the ice at Hutts Pond as a cutting area.

But the forces which changed other Nova Scotia communities also affected Tancook. In the 1920's growing banker fleets depressed fish prices and the islanders turned to cabbage growing to supplement their income by exporting, or processing the cabbages into sauerkraut. Now only a few farmers are engaged in this cottage industry and more frequently Tancook-style 'kraut' is made in Blandford. However, the process hasn't changed - it still depends on the almanac. Harvested in October, the cabbages are shredded, packed tightly with salt into barrels about two weeks before full moon. As the moon rises so does the brine - at full moon the brine overflows the barrel and only then is the sauerkraut ready for packing.

A wide variety of plants flourish on this fertile little island. Around the shore are drifts of mauve Sweet Rocket - most noticeable in early summer. Horsechestnut and Poplar trees grow in front of the houses near the dock. At one time there were many cattle on the island, but now the old pastures are being taken over by White Spruce. Foxberry, 3-toothed Cinquefoil, Pussytoes, Raspberries and Wild Strawberries grow everywhere; Wild Blue Iris are prolific in the marshy areas; Bayberry is still used for candle-making. Each season brings its own special profusion.

Small as the island is - 3 miles long by one mile wide - Tancook has its share of superstition and

folklore. Tales abound of years in the mid-1800's when the sea between Tancook and the mainland froze solid. In 1821 loaded teams passed between Chester and Tancook. Frederick Clattenburg left Chester late in the afternoon and was found the next day lying dead between the Tancooks - it is supposed that he became fatigued and was unable to reach the island. During that winter person skated from Zinck's Point near Chester, to Tancook, on to Murderer's Point, Winter's Island and Young's landing near Lunenburg. The ice was described 'as having been very thick and as smooth as glass'.

Molasses and flour were hauled in 1846 from Aspotogon to Blandford and thence on the ice to Chester. The ice was cut with axes to a depth of two feet without finding water; goods could be hauled from Shoal Cove by three pairs of oxen and two horses. In March and even April of that year hay was hauled with oxen from the islands to Chester.

In mid-February 1875, John Pearl and 16 others walked over the ice-bound bay to Chester in one hour and forty minutes. But of late years the winters have been much less severe and the ice not strong enough to admit of travelling long distances. .

Tales of rum-running in the Twenties, of buried treasure and not-too-successful fortune hunters who tried to mine gold in Southeast Cove. And while not overly superstitious, many recall face-to-face encounters with the supernatural. For that reason alone, some are reluctant to venture out by themselves after dusk, particularly near the cemetery where - to quote from a 1979 article by Marie Lindstrom in "Halifax" magazine "...a bulldog has been seen sitting beside a small flame, guarding a chest of gold. Although he holds the key in his mouth no one dares to claim the gold.

"Beyond the treasure it might hold the cemetery reveals most poignantly the hardships and tragedies, past and present, of a world governed by the sea. Young children dying helplessly in their mother's arms when home remedies, on an island isolate from medical care, no longer provided a cure. Husbands and sons lost forever beneath the seas. "

Although in its heyday in the early 1900's, Tancook was home to nearly 1,000 persons, today fewer than 300 live there. Most are retired, or involved in the fisheries still the mainstay of the island's economy. The score of brightly-coloured boats tied up at the wharf are among the most prosperous in Nova Scotia.

Doris Butters



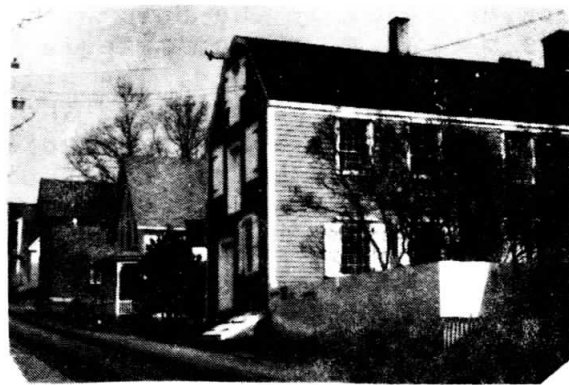
SHELBURNE-BARRINGTON WEEKEND -

Our September trip to the Shelburne area was an unqualified success: so much to see - the Woolen Mill and Old Meeting House at Barrington; Archelaus Smith Museum and the lovely beach-stone church (bright gold with lichen) on Cape Sable Island; the Chapel Hill Museum and Observation Tower at Shag Harbour, and of course the extensive historic reconstruction along the waterfront at Shelburne.

As usual, at every stop we met with warmth and kindness on the part of our hosts - the women's groups who catered for us provided ideal Nova Scotia country meals, served smoothly and expeditiously despite the fact that there were more mouths to feed than had been anticipated. They did a wonderful job.

On Saturday evening a group from Birchtown, descendants of Black Loyalists who sought refuge in Nova Scotia in 1783, gave a dramatic reading of a short play written by Louise Delisle, which deals with a documented Court case over a black freedman kept in bondage by a white slavemaster. Norma Black Bragg, visiting from Connecticut read most expressively some of her poems on freedom. It was a little cool in the Dory Shop and the hot cider and gingerbread which topped off our evening was most welcome.

Unfortunately we were unable to produce a Griffin Newsletter before the tour to give members of the Trust some idea of how much additional information has come to light since the official brochure and Walking Tour guide were written. So - we will try to remedy that right now by sharing the contents of a letter from Mrs. Mary Archibald of SHS which tells of some of the happenings in Shelburne pertinent to historic buildings and which she hoped would help to



heighten our anticipation and provide more depth to our stay ...

"Many of you have visited the Ross-Thomson House, the original building in our Historic Complex on Dock Street. You probably know that at least the store section was built in 1785 and that the brothers George and Robert Ross originally came from Aberdeen, Scotland. Recently we have learned that Robert Ross played an active part in the American Revolution. Prior to 1776 he was a trader on the Louisiana Territory based in West Florida and during the Revolution opposed the Spanish on the Mississippi, fled to St. Augustine and eventually came to Nova Scotia, probably early in 1784.

"In 1785 he was one of three leading citizens of Shelburne who warned Governor Parr that the heavy taxes on ships going in and out of Shelburne harbour, the large reserves of land kept for the military and the lack of provisions, particularly salt to preserve fish for shipment to the West Indies, would spell the ruination of the new Loyalist town. Robert Ross died in 1809 in Cape Town, South Africa, where the Ross Brothers had an office. George carried on the business until his death in 1816.

"Their clerk, Robert Thomson, married Dorcas Hutchins, the daughter of a staunch Loyalist from Boston.

"The bed hangings and curtains in the master bedroom of the Ross-Thomson House are quite new. They

were designed by the Nova Scotia Museum and made from material purchased in Scotland. The kitchen has recently been restored and we are waiting for a safety clearance for the chimney before continuing our program of cooking in the open hearth.

"Some of you may have visited the Shelburne County Museum housed in a building which was home to David Nairn of Scotland from about the year 1787. During renovations to this building we closed-in the original fireplace, which sloped back and is in itself an historic artifact. We did this for display purposes and may have committed an error. Notice the iron-work on the doors, said to date back to the 18th century.

"The Newsham Fire-Pumper, one of our oldest artifacts, was made between 1725 and 1745 in London, and is identical in structure to the oldest fire-engine in England, on exhibit in the Science Museum in Kensington. Elinor Walker, Marjorie Barteaux and Sally King, the devoted researchers who spend each Wednesday at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia sorting and cataloguing 18th century Shelburne County papers, 'discovered' the original receipted bill from Benjamin Davis of Shelburne, dated August 1786, which disclosed that one of the two fire engines purchased by the Chamber of Commerce at Shelburne had arrived from England in the ship "Lively" under Captain Atkins. As you will see, we desperately need a separate room to house our fire-pumper.

"Our summer display was designed around the 18th century costumes handmade by members of our society under the guidance of Elizabeth deMolitor. Patterns for the adult costumes were obtained from the United Empire Loyalist Association at Toronto, who in turn obtained them from the Brigade of the American Revolution. Our materials are all natural fibres. We have

written a booklet, Loyalist Dress in Nova Scotia, 1776-1800 which should be available by September.

"Across Dock Street from the Shelburne County Museum stands the Dory Shop, thought to have been built early in the 19th century. The government of Nova Scotia has recently completed the restoration of the exterior. The interior is as it has always been. We expect this building to be open to the public in 1983. Plans are underway to have displays of various types of dories, and slide shows on dory building, on the ground floor and to actually build dories on the second level. Shelburne dories differ from other dories in that the stem is made in two parts joined by a clamp, rather than being made from the natural knees of trees. At one time there were seven dory shops in the town.

"Amos Williams, father of Joseph, the original owner of at least the land on which the Dory Shop stands, came from New Jersey. His story is not unusual in the annals of the Revolution - his mother and three of his brothers supported the rebel cause; he and his brother James followed their father and were Loyalists.

"The red building is the other actual member of our Historical Complex but still the home of the previous owner. It was built in 1817.

"Three other buildings beside the Dory Shop are not on the Walking Tour brochure, but merit an introduction. The house at the foot of St. John's Street under restoration by Elinor and Philip Walker of Dartmouth and Shelburne; "Cox's" the store built in 1902; and "Tottie's", recently restored by the Dory Shop Crafts of the Shelburne Historical Society. Tottie's serves as a craft outlet for Shelburne Co. craftsmen who sell their wares there on consignment, and for the SHS who sell the results of their Dory Shop Committee's work, with profits going

towards the operation of the Historic Complex on Dock Street.

"Elinor and Philip will tell the story of their Loyalist house, you will receive documentation when visiting Tottie's, but the story of "Cox's" has not been written and you may find it interesting.

"To 'put flesh on the Family Tree', George Augustus Cox who first owned the building was descended from James Cox, a ship's carpenter who came to Shelburne in 1784 to repair a ship from Plymouth, Massachusetts, that was lying in Shelburne harbour. One of the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1783 which ended the American Revolution, gave the victors the right to fish off the shores of what are now referred to as the Atlantic Provinces.

"In Shelburne, James, the son of James, married Elizabeth Rowland Hemeon, widow of Bolton Hemeon Loyalist from Staten Island, and daughter of Dr. Rowland, the Anglican minister in Shelburne who had been chaplain to the 2nd Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers during the Revolution. The NJV was the largest single corps raised in America during the Revolution. Abraham Van Buskirk, Lt.-Col. of the the 3rd Battalion is buried in the Anglican churchyard in Shelburne.

"Part of the land on which Cox's stands was granted in 1783 to Col. Samuel Campbell, Royalist from Wilmington, North Carolina. In 1829 Samuel Campbell Jr. sold the land to Joshua Snow, who in turn sold it to E.J. Murphy and his wife Catherine, granddaughter of Captain Peter Harris who served and died in the Prince of Wales American Regiment, and to Nathaniel Whitworth White, son of Capt. Gideon White of the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment. Gideon White was a Port Roseway Associate, the group of Loyalists who first came to what is now the town of Shelburne.

"In 1897 James Reid Bower, a descendant of Adam and Catherine Bower, Loyalists from South Carolina, bought the land from the Murphys and the Whites, and sold it in 1901 to George Augustus Cox who built "Cox's" in 1902. The building, which is one of the holdings of J. & J. Cox, Ltd., of Halifax and Calgary, is 11,800 sq. ft. and in excellent condition. The Shelburne Area Business Improvement Commission is currently negotiating a 10-year lease on it. John and James Cox are grandsons of George Augustus Cox.

"The seeded area north of Tottie's is to be a bowling green. In 1734 there was a bowling green at Annapolis and after the arrival of the Loyalists, probably one at Shelburne although we have found no actual documentation. We are also building a Quoits Field, of which there were several in Shelburne.

"The rocks and debris on the southern end of Dock Street will be used to fill in the docks we hope to restore along the waterfront."

Our thanks to Mary for all this additional information, and our regrets that it could not be issued in time for the Trust tour. However - 1983 will be the two hundredth anniversary of the arrival of thousands of Loyalists at Shelburne, and there are plans for a big celebration program next summer. Another Trust trip? or private visits by individuals? Whatever - we wish the ambitious and hardworking townspeople of Shelburne the best of luck with the project, and hope to be there.



BARRINGTON/SHELBURNE "COOKS'"
TOUR -

An added pleasure to the Trust tour of Barrington and Shelburne area was the good eating provided by the women's groups. The Pot Luck Supper by the Wesley Un-United Women's Auxiliary offered a variety of casseroles, salads, desserts and breads which I feel sure were the specialties of the contributing cooks. Tasty, satisfying and plentiful, served quickly and competently despite the overcrowded room.

The Chowder and Pie Lunch served on Sunday at the United Church by their local group was another excellent meal, shared by the Mayor of Shelburne, the Warden and members of Shelburne's Historical Housing Committee.

But perhaps we should give a little extra 'promotion' to the lunch in the Barrington Fire Hall and served by the Cape Sable Historical Society. Our trip was a good opportunity for them to try out an early settlers' meal which the Society proposes to provide at the 1983 Shelburne County Bicentennial Anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists to many areas of Nova Scotia in 1783.

The brains behind the idea are those of Mary Harris and her husband Bob, who, together with other CSHS members, received us dressed in their authentically styled handmade period costumes and served our 1760's meal of

Fish Chowder
Scouse

Salt-Rising Bread & Soldiers' Bread
Fresh Butter
Blueberry Pancakes
Black-Strap Molasses & Whipped Cream

with the following explanatory note on the menu sheet :

"Fish were plentiful in the waters around Cape Sable in the 18th century, and this led to the settlement of Barrington Township in 1761.

"The dishes served today are examples of foods common to that period.

"The first few years were hard for the people of Barrington. Supplies were not readily available, as they came by boat from New England and the West Indies. The people survived mostly on what could be taken from the sea or grown on the poor, rocky soil. Some of the more well-to-do families had animals, a cow or two, a steer or a pair of oxen. Others kept a pig and chickens, and for the skilled hunter, game was plentiful. In season the wild fruits, blueberries, cranberries and wild strawberries were eagerly gathered by the children.

"Sugar was a great luxury. Black-strap Molasses was used for sweetening, and a pitcher of the black flowing syrup was set on the table and was as common as the sugar bowl today.

"All the flours of this period were whole grain and stone ground in the local mills.

"Unless one brewed beer at home, fresh yeast was not easy to come by. "Salt Rising" was used by the very early settlers to North America. It is made by using one teaspoon of coarse salt dissolved in one pint of warm milk or water which is then thickened by beating in sufficient flour to give a heavy cream consistency. This mixture is put into a quart pitcher, tightly covered and left to stand in a warm place for several hours. Bubbles will rise to the surface and after a further two hours a fine, foamy head reaches the top of the pitcher. This is the 'yeast' used to raise 4 quarts of whole wheat flour.

CONTD....

"Soldiers' Bread" is 50% rye flour, 50% whole wheat flour mixed with water and raised with yeast. This bread was commonly eaten by armies in North America. Sometimes, fine corn meal was also incorporated.

"Scouse is a stew made from salt fat pork with turnips, potatoes and carrots from the vegetable garden.

"Few herbs and very little seasoning was used except for salt and pepper, savoury and parsley. Stiffly-beaten egg white was the raising agent, whereas today baking powder is used.

"Although tea and coffee is served today, both were the greatest luxury; instead people drank infusions of wild rose hips, other wild berries and herbs."

President Ian McKee remarked that his deep sympathy towards the early settlers in their deprivations and hardships, evaporated somewhat after eating this excellent typical 1760's meal!

Hilary Grant.



BIRCHTOWN COMMUNITY THEATRE -

The short play (p. of this newsletter) written by Louise Delisle of Shelburne and read for us by herself and members of the Birchtown community theatre group, has already been staged in costume and was well-received by the public. Louise is at the moment working on another, longer play dealing with the history of her people, which it is hoped will be ready for production in time for the Bicentennial Celebration.

Perhaps Mrs. Norma B. Black will also be present to read more of her poetry, which she presents with such sincerity and expressiveness.

GRANVILLE CENTENARY METHODIST
CHURCH -

In 1782 William Black, aged 22, the son of a Cumberland County settler from Yorkshire, England, came as a travelling "saddle" preacher to Upper Granville, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. Black was a Methodist, and advocated the doctrines of John Wesley; he was at that time self-appointed and un-ordained, but a dedicated Christian.

The first Methodist service was held in a barn, probably the barn owned by Samuel Chesley (the Heritage Trust Tour visited this property last year). The original members of the congregation included members of the Longley, Bath, Fellows, Clarke, Phinney and Chesley families.

In 1792 the first church was built "under the Mountain", probably on what is now the Beaconsfield Road, near the North Mountain. In 1799 land near the Annapolis River was purchased from William Clarke, and with the aid of ox teams the church was moved to its present site.

There was a revival in 1839, and more names were added to the membership lists, Troop, Parker, Wade, among others.

In 1878 "Granville-Old Chapel" was turned to face the road, and extensively re-modelled in the Victorian style. The "new" oil lighting was installed, and the wrought iron lamps remain in the church.

The church was renovated again in 1924, and re-dedicated as "Granville Centenary Methodist Church", the service was attended by Dr. Alfred Rogers, ex-President of the Church Conference, and a great grandson of Dr. William Black, the founder of Methodism in Granville.

On 27 June 1982 a special service and birthday party was held to celebrate the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the church, the regular congregation was greatly augmented by friends, neighbours and well-wishers, who helped to celebrate a very happy anniversary.

Jean Petley-Jones.



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