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The Griffin

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Government House Restoration *by Graeme Duffus*

In 1990, G. F. Duffus & Company Ltd. were engaged by the Province of Nova Scotia to undertake the restoration of the exterior fabric of Government House.

The foundations for Government House had been laid in 1799, and although it was not completed until 1808, Governor Wentworth occupied the building in 1805. The building had fallen into considerable disrepair on the exterior by the time Duffus & Co. were engaged, having seen very little exterior maintenance over the years. In making all conservation decisions throughout the project, we attempted to be true to International Conservation Standards and the *Venice Charter*, and concentrated on minimal intervention and preservation of original fabric. A report of the exterior survey of the building's current condition was submitted and included recommendations, a budget and a schedule for the proposed work. This was followed by the preparation of contract documents. Unfortunately, government cutbacks resulted in the project being put on hold in April 1991.

In 1993, the severe deterioration of the moat walls and our concern about overstress in the heavy timber roof framing and some chimneys resulted in the installation of temporary shoring in the moat to prevent collapse. Contract documents were then prepared for tender containing both construction cost estimates and a hefty contingency to cover uncertainty in the unit rate quantities; the contract was tendered in 1995. In the meantime, together with Department carpenters assigned to us



East Side of Government House (Originally the Front) Photo Graeme Duffus

and our structural engineers, we reinforced the roof framing by adding heavy timber posts and plywood gusset plates at weak joints and connections. We replaced rotted components in two trusses, which were embedded in the masonry and had deteriorated seriously due to water penetration. Making use of Parks Canada guidelines obtained from Mr. Bill Hockey, we developed similar details for the repairs, all in accordance with good conservation principles. Repairs involved cutting out the masonry surrounding the bearing ends of the two trusses, cutting out all rot, rebuilding with steel plates and new wood material for one and steel channels over new wood on the other, all bolted together. *Impel Rods* were inserted to protect the old wood from future deterioration; both the top and

bottom chord of these old trusses were damaged. Upon completion, the masonry walls were left open to allow air circulation. These repairs can easily be understood in context to the original detail, as no attempt was made to copy or conceal the detail in the repair. Finally, we had a hollow tube steel section inserted and grouted into one flue of each overstressed chimney to ensure their stability until full chimney repairs could be undertaken in the future.

In 1995 bids were received for the moat and walls, and work began. The project went very well; nevertheless, two years had elapsed since the original estimate was made and greater amounts of backing stone were

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Stepping Back in Time: Reconstructing Built Heritage

2. The Fortress of Louisbourg *by Joan Dawson*

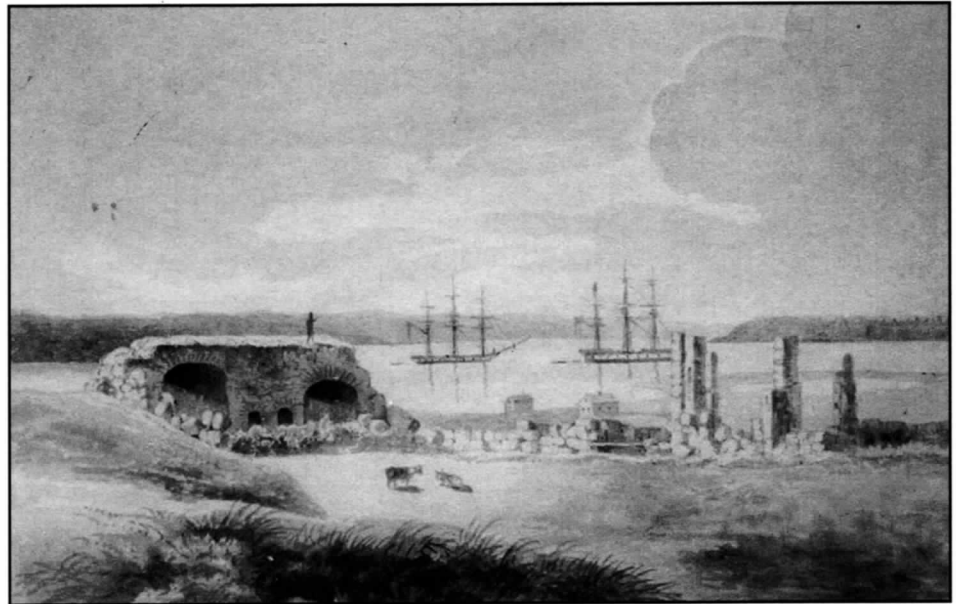
Recent articles in the press and on television about the deterioration of the buildings at Louisbourg remind us that reconstructed buildings are no less subject to the onslaughts of the Nova Scotia climate than were the originals. As we know, the problem of maintaining the original fortress was solved definitively after the British captured it for the second time in 1758. They decided to destroy it completely so that it should never again pose a threat to their security. Much of the building stone was carried away and reused as far away as Halifax, and the timbers were used for construction or firewood. In 1805 the Rev. John Inglis observed that "a more complete destruction of buildings can scarcely be imagined. All are reduced to confused heaps of stone after all the wood, and all that was combustible was either burnt or carried away." Sketches made by John Elliott Woolford in 1818 show a few remaining arches of the King's Bastion and a small amount of other massive stonework which had not fallen prey to the requirements of builders elsewhere in the province.

The nineteenth century's love for romantic ruins meant that this scene of "melancholy desolation" attracted visitors, but the site was still privately owned, being divided up into more than twenty lots, with houses, fish flakes and grazing animals interspersed among the ruins. No attempt was made to preserve the ruins, and it was not until 1895 that any form of commemoration was attempted. In that year a memorial was erected, not without some controversy, by an American group in honour of the 150th anniversary of the New Englanders' taking of the fortress.

It was not until 1902, when Senator Pascal Poirier unsuccessfully urged the Canadian Government to acquire the land as a public park, that any thought was given to protecting the Louisbourg site. This was followed by the purchase of part of the site by Captain J.D. Kennelly, who attempted to raise funds for its preservation, and himself took steps to stabilize some of the ruins. On

his death in 1907 the property was left in trust to some provincial officials, but with insufficient funding to allow further progress and the land remained

erection of four cairns with bilingual plaques. 1928 saw a federal appropriation of funding for further land acquisition and the designation of



"The ruins of Louisburgh from the Glacis," by John E. Woolford

part of his estate until 1924.

Beginning in 1908, J. S. McLennan (later Senator) and others urged the Federal Government to acquire the property. The first thought of reconstruction came from McLennan, who suggested rebuilding the Intendant's house to serve as a museum and marking the streets and other features.

With the creation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1919, interest in the site was renewed and the initial purchase of two lots was made by the Parks Branch of the Federal Government. In 1923, two maritime members of the HSMBC visited Louisbourg and proposed that the government acquire the entire historic site, remove recent buildings and fences and mark the original streets and principal buildings. The overall plan was rejected by the Parks Branch as too expensive, but land purchase continued, and by 1924 about 70 acres (one fifth of the entire site) was in government hands. Two years later Louisbourg was officially recognised as an historic place with the

Louisbourg as a National Historic Site.

A 1930 plan to reconstruct selected areas of the site, to collect and display artifacts and to establish research facilities in a museum was accepted in principle by the Parks Branch. Funding remained a problem, but a series of summer programmes over the next decade included the preservation of the casemates of the King's Bastion, the excavation of selected sites and the partial reconstruction of the walls of some of the buildings. The permanent museum was completed in 1936. Caretaking, maintenance and summer projects provided employment for local residents. In 1940 more land was acquired, and the site became known as the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park.

The Federal Government's project to reconstruct the fortress and part of the town of Louisbourg as we see it today was begun in the 1960s, in part as a measure to counteract the unemployment brought about by the closure of mines in the area. Justice I.C. Rand's *Report of the Royal Commission of Coal*, established to

examine the decline in the industry in Cape Breton, came out in 1960 and its recommendations were accepted by the Diefenbaker Government the following year. It suggested the reconstruction as a means of revitalising the local economy, providing training and employment for the laid off miners. It was also a bold and imaginative

identify. Some of the records are so detailed that we know who lived in many of the houses, and what purpose most of the buildings served.

By 1963 the reconstruction was under way, and it continued until 1985, when the buildings visible today were completed. As in the case of Port Royal, every effort was made to use

Louisbourg.

The fact that the structures are now in need of maintenance should surprise nobody. Exposed to the elements on Cape Breton's stormy Atlantic coast, the buildings suffer the same kind of damage by wind and weather that their original counterparts had to withstand. In the natural course of events, had the British not destroyed the original buildings of Louisbourg, without constant maintenance the climate would have taken its toll. The buildings we see now are worth preserving.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks are due to Mr. A.J.B. Johnston of Parks Canada, who provided me with valuable information, both written and oral, on the reconstruction of Fortress Louisbourg.

Reproduction of the watercolours of Louisbourg courtesy, William Inglis Morse Collection, Special Collections, Dalhousie University Libraries.



from Sketches in Nova Scotia, 1818.

investment in what was to become a major tourist attraction, presenting many aspects of both military and civilian life in the French colony in the mid-18th century.

During the following two years researchers – historians, archaeologists and architects – put together plans to begin the reconstruction. It was decided to rebuild the fortifications and about one quarter of the town as it had been in 1744, just before the first siege and capture of Louisbourg. There was plenty of documentation on which to base an authentic reconstruction. French engineers and administrators had from the very first sent back to France maps and plans of the growing fortress. The British, too, made records of their own. These plans, written reports and estimates have been preserved and, of course, because the site itself had not been extensively built over, the archaeological record was relatively easily traced. Although much of the stone above ground had been removed, the foundations of buildings and defences, and the layout of the streets were not difficult to

French building methods appropriate to the period and authentic materials. The result was the reconstruction, over a period of twenty years, of part of an eighteenth century French town within an eighteenth century French defensive system. The buildings, of wood, brick and stone, represent the building styles of the period and reflect the status of their inhabitants and the purposes for which they were built. Some minor modifications, such as extra doors, were dictated by the requirements for visitor safety and traffic flow, but they were kept to a minimum. A few buildings housing services and work areas, which are not open to the public, incorporate period reconstruction only on the exterior.

Much of the reconstruction was done under the leadership of Park Superintendent John Lunn, who assembled a team of research staff and materials on site, and oversaw all phases of planning and construction. By 1973 the greater part of the work had been completed, and during the six-month season from May to October of that year, 138,000 visitors came to



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Deadline for the next issue:

August 1, 2001

Please send submissions to:

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P.O. Box 36111, Spring Garden
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Halifax, NS B3J 3S9

Tel: (902) 423-4807,

e-mail material to

heritage.trust@ns.sympatico.ca

or to John Lazier at

jlazier@hfx.andara.com

Government House: *con't from page 1*

required due to two further years of water deterioration, and additional repairs to the sandstone capstones and gutters were necessary. Some of the granite and ironstone walls were beyond repair and were taken down and rebuilt; the former had rubble backing and brick arched casemates which required considerable repair. Drainage was upgraded and two drains were replaced. A structural slab was poured over the three casemates and waterproofed. The ironstone wall that had failed was numbered and taken down, and a concrete retaining structure was built and the wall reconstructed. The capstones and gutter stones were all repaired and reset; the wrought iron fence and hand rails were reset in lead after restoration.

In 1996 work began on cleaning, major replacement of stone veneer, repairs to backing walls, grouting voids, repairs to rotted structural members, new roofing, flashing, window repairs, and stone consolidation. Quality control monitoring and testing of historic lime mortars and grouts continued throughout the project. The slate roof option had to be abandoned due to the high cost and concerns about the capacity of one section to take this load. Cleaning was very difficult: our previously successful *wet head* method was unable to clean the sandstone without damaging the fabric. We found that two sides of the building had a very poor quality sandstone that had lost its binder; through testing we determined the only way to retain the tooling and get it reasonably clean was by using *Sure Klean Heavy Duty Restoration Cleaner*. While generally successful, water had penetrated the stone enough to result in iron staining on the surface, and another chemical treatment was required to remove the stains. Finally, to stabilize and preserve the sandstone we applied a *Conservare Stone Strengthener*.

In year two, the spring of 1997, we began cleaning the other two façades with the *JOS* method, which testing had proved suitable. Here the stone was better quality and in much better condition, resulting in much less loss of

matrix. Although this proved to be more expensive to clean than using chemicals, we believed chemical cleaning should be avoided if at all possible.

The extent of the deterioration we discovered in all floor and roof framing embedded in masonry was unexpected: almost all the south and east facing wood floor, roof framing and wood lintels had rotted and had to be replaced or extensively repaired. Although it varied on the north and west, it was still significant. Details to repair wood fabric were developed on a one-by-one basis. We utilized steel channels, plates and bolts, in-filled lost wood with *Impel Rods* and a *Boracol* treatment, and corrected any technical problems we found that could be improved. Some of the major structural beams which were no longer bearing on the masonry were very difficult to repair, and holes were cut in ceilings to shore up the beam or truss. The exterior wall was opened around the beam ends to remove all rotted wood, and steel channels with wood infill were inserted from the exterior to replace the loss of bearing ends. The ground floor framing was repaired from the basement; to make the repairs to the second floor, however, the hardwood floors in the Lieutenant Governor's and Royal Suites were taken up and replaced afterwards. Every attempt was made whenever possible to minimize damage to original fabric while making repairs.

All the wood windows, doors and porticos were stripped, repaired and refinished with historically correct colours and finishes as determined by microscopic analysis. Previously replaced sashes were replaced with new sashes that exactly matched originals still found in the building. Frames were in fairly good condition, and repairs were made using dutchmen or epoxy treatments where necessary. Proper reproduction historic brass hardware was found that was similar to a piece found in an interior basement window. The original sand paint finish on the porticos was replicated using a specification found in *The Old House Journal*, written by George Washington, and a modern Glitter Gun.

Three complete sets of clay flue liners were inserted in chimneys for the furnace and two of the important fireplaces. The remaining 32 flues had been abandoned and were capped. Both remaining high chimneys were reinforced internally to eliminate straps installed earlier. Chimney pots were acquired to replace those which had disintegrated. A slate look-alike shingle (430 lb) was installed on the roof with leaded copper flashing details and ridge caps, based on historic photos. A custom fibreglass gutter system was designed to replace the top section of the stone cornice in lieu of an unsightly exterior gutter which was not original and was a maintenance problem. Nearly all the cornice needed replacing, a justifiable expenditure given the history of water problems discovered in research documents—there were no gutters on the original building. The new gutters were lined with copper and connected to leaded copper downspouts. All new flashing material was in a leaded copper, and copper was used to re-roof two porticos and the two projecting circular wings. This work was completed in 1998.

Landscaping was also completed in 1998: it was required to restore and improve areas of the site which had suffered during construction. A new canopy was designed and foundations placed, which we hope will be completed when funds are available.

The Restoration of the Exterior Fabric won a Citation in the Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor's Award program in 1997.

Dal Archives Closed for Summer

The Dalhousie University Archives will be closed between June 3 and Sept. 3, during a complete inventory, re-appraisal and reorganization of its collections. Access to the Archives during this period will on an emergency basis only. For information, please contact Michael Moosberger 494-5176 or Michael.Moosberger@dal.ca

VARIED WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Our 2001 winter lecture series, organised by Nancy O'Brien at short notice, presented a variety of topics to good audiences who braved this season's wintry weather.

In January, Deborah Trask, the Curator of Buildings for the History Section of the Nova Scotia Museum, gave an illustrated talk on the history of the glass industry that flourished in Trenton, Nova Scotia, during the 19th and early 20th centuries. She spoke of the rise and decline of the industry, and explained how glass fragments found by archaeologists on the sites of former glass factories made it possible to identify with certainty many of the patterns which they produced. After showing us pictures of a wide range of both decorative and utilitarian pieces, Deborah identified a number of glass objects brought by members of the audience. Watch for her forthcoming book, *Fragile and Fanciful: the Story of the Glass Industry in Nova Scotia and Collecting Nova Scotian Glass*, which

should be in the bookstores within a year.

The February presentation was by Lewis Billard, a Dartmouth photographer, who showed several series of pictures of Dartmouth, many of which featured its old buildings. Both domestic and commercial buildings were included, many in beautiful settings. There were some interesting interior shots as well as individual houses and streetscapes. As well as the slide presentations, Mr. Billard brought along some of his excellent photographic prints of Dartmouth.

In March, the topic was tree-rings, presented by Alan Ruffman of Halifax and Erik Nielsen, who currently works in Winnipeg. The study of dendrochronology involves creating time profiles by studying the pattern of the growth rings in cross-sections of trees. Not only do these rings show the age of the trees, but their variations reflect climate patterns during their growth. The speakers showed how the establishment of a database for any given area enables researchers to determine the age of pieces of wood

and thereby date a building by examining timber used in its construction. Another use of the technique is "hindcasting," the identification of climate events such as major floods which had taken place in the past. The talk was illustrated with slides and with examples of "cookies" (slabs of wood cut across the tree) and core samples, as well as some pieces of timber from old buildings.

April's lecture was given by Alex Wilson, Collections Manager and Botanist at the Nova Scotia Museum. His theme was Heritage Plants, and he showed many beautiful slides of trees, shrubs and plants to be found in both public spaces and private gardens in Nova Scotia. Many of these have an interesting history and provenance, some being original specimens, others being descendants of plants brought to the province in days gone by. Alex also displayed some early seed catalogues from which gardeners selected their new season's plantings. J.D.

For details of forthcoming lectures, please see notices in *The Griffin*.



Three pressed glass creamers c. 1890 in the same base pattern, attributed to the Nova Scotia Glass Company, Trenton, Pictou County. From left: "Fine Rib" with additional whorl engraving, "Grape and Vine" (fancy), "Fine Rib" (plain). Collection, Nova Scotia Museum N18312. Photo by Roger Lloyd.

Davison-Kennedy House in Wallace *By David Dewar*

Hard work, dedication and good fortune are at the root of one of Nova Scotia's newest museums.

The Wallace and Area Museum is located in Wallace, a small community on the Northumberland Strait between Pugwash and Tatamagouche. The village of Wallace, like many communities in Nova Scotia, is steeped in a rich history. The first settlement was the native Mi'kmaq village called Remsheg. It was later an Acadian village, then a United Empire Loyalist village; ultimately it became a major destination for many Scottish Settlers. Over the years the town has been an important shipbuilding port, and its sandstone quarries provided stone for many buildings in the United States and Canada, including part of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa.

Community celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the United Empire Loyalist settlement in 1784 sparked the formation of the Wallace and Area Museum Society. The original plan was to have a one-year summer museum dedicated to the display of local history and artifacts. From the response that first summer, spent in donated facilities at the Masonic Hall, the Society could see a need to continue collecting and preserving the wealth of artifacts in the community. The faithful group carried on with the summer museum operation and also began its search for permanent quarters.

During the 1980s, businessman John Kennedy retired to his family home in Wallace. The Kennedy home had been built in 1839 by Mr. Kennedy's great grandfather, James B. Davison, a prominent shipbuilder. As a youngster, John Kennedy moved from Wallace to work in Saint John, NB; however, each summer he returned to visit with his mother, Mary. According to old friends, he had always been concerned about the future of his Wallace home: he wished it to be preserved as a park to honour the memory of his mother, her shipbuilding heritage, and the area's history.

John Kennedy passed away in 1987, leaving a large estate. His wishes were that it be divided between the Nova Scotia SPCA and the upkeep of his

family property. Through hard work and many appeals, the estate of the late John Kennedy was given through the Nova Scotia Government to the Wallace and Area Museum Society. The property is over 90 hectares in size and 3 kilometres in length. It borders the Wallace Harbour on the north and the old CNR track, now the Trans-Canada Trail, on the south. Buildings on the property include an 1839 house and a



The Davison-Kennedy House in 1920

barn, part of which had been built in the 1790s. The Society acquired not only a property with tremendous physical attributes, but also a home full of objects and artifacts collected over one hundred and sixty years of occupation by one family, the Davisons.

There had been collectors and savers in every generation of the Davison family. The catalogued collection from the site contains over 6000 items—large collections of native baskets, clothing, toys, newspapers, hats, navigation maps, ceramics, and many other items of historical interest and value. Among these treasures are an 1835 wedding dress and an 1810 handwritten book of letters—copies of the correspondence of businessman Thomas Davison.

From the beginning in November 1990 to the Museum's opening in June 1993, hundreds of volunteers devoted many hours to sorting and storing material at the house; many more hours were spent in meetings discussing plans and objectives. The Nova Scotia Government, in conjunction with the Museum Society and the Nova Scotia Museum, oversaw the restoration of the house.

The Museum has seen a steady increase in visitors since opening in June 1993. It is open year round, with a

wide variety of displays, presentations and events. Over fifty themes have been identified in the collection which allow the Society, with its limited space, to offer a variety of displays throughout the year. The Museum concentrates on keeping community heritage alive by using summer themes of broad appeal that both showcase the collection and honour the area's history. The summer theme for 1998 was the United Empire Loyalist settlement; 1999 was the Wallace Sandstone Quarries; in 2000 the museum paid tribute to Wallace's shipbuilding industry and the Davison shipyard. This year the theme is the Industrial Development of Wallace, looking at 1850, 1900 and 1950. Along with the special theme displays, there is always the permanent exhibition of artifacts from the Davison family and a room dedicated to local poet, author, businessman and historian, Francis Grants.

The Museum has developed heritage gardens and a small trail system for the enjoyment of outdoor enthusiasts. In the summer of 2000 we opened a three-kilometre wilderness trail connecting to the Trans-Canada Trail, and this summer, in conjunction with First Nations Forestry of Millbrook, a short trail will be opened using signage in both Mi'kmaq and English.

In 1998, encouraged by the increase in community interest, the Museum Board hired the consultants Camus Productions of Rothsay, NB, to study the need to expand the museum buildings to better serve the community. Their findings resulted in a three-year plan for expansion. Architect George Rogers of MacFawn and Rogers of Halifax has completed a design which complements the heritage home and property as well as providing space for additional storage and an increase in programming.

The Museum Society Board of Directors is looking forward to beginning construction in the fall. Check with the Wallace and Area Museum website for further developments:
www.wallacemuseum.ns.ca

In Search of the Truth

by Ian McKee

The Heritage Trust Treasurer, searches for the origin of the Silver Ship on display in Government House.

Many of you are aware of the large, silver ship, known as a "nef," that is prominently displayed in Government House. A nef is a ship model originally designed for use as a table ornament and salt cellar for formal settings. It was first loaned by Charles Beazley, and then given to the House by his widow. Mr. Beazley was the Provincial Secretary for many years and then the Chief of Protocol.

How did the nef come to Halifax? The story goes that Mr. Beazley's father, a salvage captain, found it in a wreck off Cape Breton in about 1900.

The wreck was said to be French and to have gone down some 200 years before. The silver ship was brought home and not recognised for what it was. Young Charlie may have played with it as a pull-toy. When it was later sent to Birks to be silver-plated, it was discovered to be made of solid silver.

A number of people had some doubts about this story, in particular that the silver ship had been under water for 200 years, so I have tried to sort out fact from the fiction.

Research in the Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management identified the Hon. R. G. Beazley as one of three brothers who owned the dredging firm of Beazley Brothers, which later became the Halifax Dredging Company. It is recorded that "one of their jobs was the salvage work done on the BLOMONDEN, a British ship en route from Emden, Germany, to New York, when she was driven ashore off Canso. Their diver brought up a huge model of a ship called the nef wrought in silver. It is still in the possession of the Beazley family."

With Garry Shutlak's assistance, further research into records of shipwrecks established that a Norwegian vessel, BLAAMANDEN, 2,037 tons, had run aground on Gannets Ledge on 2 August 1902, en route from Hamburg to New York. The disaster was described in the Halifax Herald of 4 August 1902. Gannets Ledge is off Whitehaven, which is close to Canso. The report obviously refers to the same event. It is a pity to spoil a good story, but these are the facts.

A search on the internet found a reference to a silver nef made in Germany in 1880. Perhaps we can trace where the Government House ship was made. That will be another story.

Further Notes on the Nef

by Marie Elwood

Marie Elwood conducted the very successful Heritage Trust tour of Government House and is currently completing a catalogue of its contents. She has been looking into the origins of the Government House nef. She has found further information on its possible origin and confirmation of some of the above findings. This is her report on her results to date, and we thank her for letting us publish them.

A search of Sotheby's archives of auction sales was made - and a silver nef very similar to the Government House nef was discovered in their sales records for 1978 (July 13th), with a colour photograph. This is a German four-masted nef, 95 cm high, with a maker's mark:

B. NERESHEIMER & SOHNE,
Hanau,

and with an English import mark of:

BERTHOLD MULLER of B.
Muller & Son, Chester,
England, 1910.

Hanau is a city 14 miles from Frankfurt on the River Main - silver-smithing and diamond cutting are listed among its industries. (It is also the birthplace of the Brothers Grimm.) From the library at Hanau we have learned that the firm of Neresheimer was sold to a man named BRAUN in the 1930s; he ran the business until the mid-1980s, when it closed down. There are a few

more nefs made by the firm of Neresheimer & Sohne in a local museum. We await further information from Hanau.

As regards the Beazley family provenance, a recent letter from a relative in Ottawa affirms that Charles L. Beazley's father, Richard George, had a marine salvage business and the family account relates that "the nef turned up in one of the salvage operations that the company participated in and it was found out that it was one of nine nefs made by a German silversmith for a German King that were lost in a storm at sea."

This letter included "a sketch from memory" of the silver ship under a glass dome in a bay window of the Beazley residence on Tower Road, Halifax.

I would like to thank Edith Wolter who assisted me in this enquiry in her fluent German.



The Silver Ship at Government House

Summer Travel Along the Bras D'Or Lakes

Stand with Jim St.Clair in front of the MacDonald house in the Highland Village at Iona, Cape Breton, and he'll have you listening to the generations who have lived within. The 1829 house was the home of his great-great-great grandparents, Allan MacDonald and Mary MacLean, who came to Cape Breton from North Uist in 1822. They built this house, a storey-and-a-half centre-chimney dwelling near Whycocomagh, with the help of their sons and neighbours. On the open rafters are the adze marks and a hole for the carved wooden pegs that held the timbers tight.

The house was saved from destruction and moved to the Iona Village about twenty-five years ago. Across the yard is a replica of an early 1820s log house and down the hill is a replica of a stone house - the most striking of the ten structures - that might have been found in the 1700s in the Hebrides. A school house and the store belong to the late 1800s. There are replicas of other styles of dwelling: next to arrive will be a mid-1800s church.



The "village" is a museum, the latest addition to the family of the Nova Scotia Museums, and is the work of the Highland Village Society, an organization dedicated to the interpretation of the life of the Gaelic-speaking Highland Scots. As you clamber along the steep hill, in its marvellous setting overlooking the Bras

d'Or Lakes, the Society wants you to hear the Gaelic greetings to visitors, the people singing Gaelic songs at work and at ceilidhs, and families reading from the Bible in Gaelic and teaching their children to speak English. It is an interpretation of life in early Nova Scotia. (Next door to Highland Village: Highland Heights Inn Motel and good restaurant with deck and grill.) N.O'B.

McCulloch House - Still Closed to Visitors

McCulloch House, a handsome treasure of the town of Pictou, has not re-opened. (*The Griffin*, December 1998)

This stone house was built in 1806 for Thomas McCulloch, educator, Presbyterian minister, naturalist, founder of Pictou Academy, and first President of Dalhousie College. Dr. McCulloch's family grew up here, and Pictou's first school was held in this house. Pictou Academy was founded by Thomas McCulloch in 1816.

The home of this Renaissance man sits mothballed on the property. It is one of the family of Nova Scotia Museums, but there are apparently no funds allotted to renovate the interior and mount an interpretation program.

The Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society administers the functioning and running of the McCulloch House Museum and is now seeking partners with whom it might
June 2001

take over the management of the heritage site.

The story of McCulloch, his life and his contribution to Nova Scotia and Canada, particularly in education, are surely worth preserving for future generations. N.O'B.

(Re-write of Janet McKay's notes - May, 2001)

Provincial Heritage Property Owners Assn. of N.S. by Paul McCulloch

In recent years, sponsored by the Provincial Heritage Property Program, annual meetings have been held for the owners of the 247 provincially designated properties. These range from residential to church, institutional, industrial and municipal sites, but clearly there are many problems common to all. Accordingly, it was considered timely last fall to

form an organization "at arm's length" whose main objective would be to encourage preservation and appreciation through advocacy, education and services that promote excellence in conservation.

As a newborn organization with \$1800 in the bank, we will for the time being confine ourselves to this objective. However, with a lively and highly intelligent board, chaired by Lester Wood, eminently well supported by Douglas Day (ex-HTNS board member), some interesting developments are shaping up such as a quarterly newsletter, a full-day workshop in St. George's Church Hall on June 16th and a website.

One might think this Association's objectives duplicate - if not overlap - those of the Trust. The main difference is that each member is deeply involved with the day-to-day problems of conservation of a heritage site. Certainly I foresee a very helpful collaboration.

Looking Back *by Pat Lotz*

We have been very slow in bringing these two books on Cape Breton houses to our readers' attention. Trust members who have not read them yet have a treat in store. Both subtitled "The Life and Times of Cape Breton Heritage Houses", they are joint-authored by Jim St. Clair and Mary K. MacLeod of the University College of



Cape Breton. *No Place Like Home* was published in 1992 and *Pride of Place* in 1994. Of the 43 buildings covered, 35 are in Inverness County. By generally concentrating more on the people who have lived in these houses than on the architecture, the authors make these books particularly appealing to anyone interested in the social history of the Island. That there may have been changes since the books first appeared does not detract from their value. However, I would like to comment on the current status of the Grand Narrows Hotel, which in its heyday was advertised as "the most comfortable and best furnished hotel in the Lower Provinces." It eventually went out of business and was bought in 1956 by C. Hugh MacLennan, a North Sydney lawyer, as a summer home for his family, and at the end of the chapter in *No Place Like Home* it is standing empty. I am happy to report that three

years ago MacLennan's daughter, Elaine MacNeil and her husband, Terry, restored the old hotel, transforming it into an inn that combines all the charm of a bygone era with modern comfort; a great place to stay for anyone visiting Cape Breton.

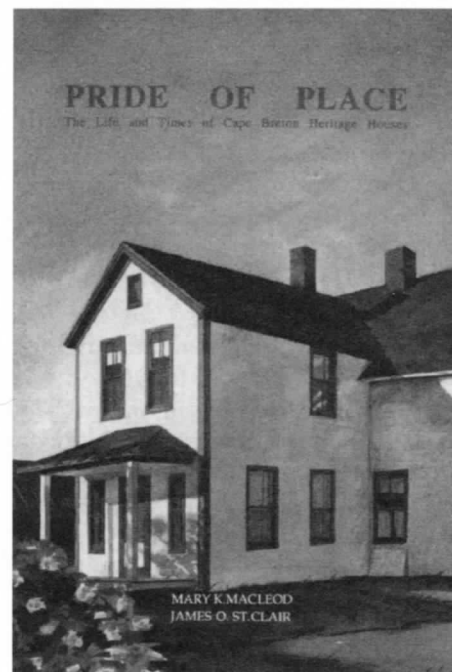
One of the first things that struck me when I read these books was the number of heritage houses that are still owned by descendants of the original owner. There is the house that Mary MacLachlan, a widow with a large family, had built for her three years after arriving in West Bay Centre from Prince Edward Island in 1827. Constructed around a central chimney with fireplaces, the sturdy farmhouse has been modified over the years. Josie MacLachlan, widow of Mary's grandson Peter, lives in the MacLachlan House now. In 1940 her living room served as a school when the local one was destroyed by fire.

The house owned by Mary Theresa Goodwin in Mabou belonged to her grandfather, Angus Boyle ("Cutter Angus"), who rented it when he arrived in Mabou in 1867 and set up his tailoring business. In 1874 he was employing a seamstress and two apprentices and was able to buy the house and an adjacent lot. When he married Catherine Cameron in '77, he moved his business into a separate building. By 1899 Angus had added a large gambrel-roofed addition at right angles to the original pitch-roof building, "a strong statement of [his] success and the economic prosperity Mabou was enjoying."

One of the most impressive houses in Inverness County is the MacLeod House at Dunvegan. The three-storey, gambrel-roof building was built in 1870 for Donald MacLeod, the grandson of Pioneer Donald MacLeod, who had emigrated with his family from Dunvegan, Skye, in 1791, and settled in Cape d'Or near Parrsboro. In 1808, the whole family left there, taking only six cattle, a horse and what they could carry, and walked to the west coast of Cape Breton. Later, to register his deeds to the several hundred acres of land that was later named Dunvegan, Pioneer Donald walked to Sydney. Still

in the family, the house has undergone no major changes, though the owner in the thirties, Pioneer Donald's great grandson Dan Joe, removed the cupola and the widow's walk.

The Coady House in South West Margaree, built in 1886 by Michael "Whistling Mick" Coady, son of pioneer Irish settlers, is another house still



owned by direct descendants of the original owner. Additional significance comes from the fact that it is where Moses Michael Coady, the charismatic leader of the Antigonish Movement, was born and raised.

Some of the houses described by St. Clair and MacLeod are modest dwellings whose stories illuminate aspects of Cape Breton's industrial past. The Dziubek House at #13-15 Ferris Street in Whitney Pier is an example of the thousands of company houses built by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company (DISCO) to house the flood of workers pouring into industrial Cape Breton at the beginning of the last century from Europe and the rural areas of the Island. Owned since the 1940s by the family of Stefan Dziubek, it is kept in better repair than DISCO kept its houses.

The Laben House in Reserve Mines is part of Canada's Co-operative history. Joe and Mary Laben were leaders of a group of miners fed up with the condition of their company housing. Inspired by their parish priest, Father Jimmy Tompkins, who provided the land, 11 miners and their families erected their own homes by pooling their labour and resources. The result was Tompkinsville, the first co-operative housing development of its kind in North America.

The most unusual story is that of The Gatehouse in Sydney, which is all that remains of Cape Breton's first, and almost certainly last, 30-room medieval castle. When Arthur Moxham became Vice-President of DISCO and general-manager of the Sydney Steel plant, his wife did not want to leave her castle in Lorain, Ohio, to accompany him. In what seems to be a case of "Have castle, will travel," he had the building dismantled and shipped to Sydney at the cost of \$350,000. It is unlikely that he had the outside stone walls shipped, but it is on record that in 1899, the entire interior of the castle was reassembled. In addition to building the castle, Moxham built a gatehouse and several other outbuildings. Then, in 1901, during the construction of the steel plant, their son was killed in an accident, and the Moxhams left Sydney, abandoning the castle. Empty for most of the next 64 years, it caught fire in 1966 and everything was destroyed except the gatehouse.

Fortunately these two books are still in print. If they are not in your local bookstore, the proprietor can order them for you from UCCB Press.

Hazel G. McKay

Long time Trust member Hazel McKay died on April 30 in St. Vincent's Guest House. She often attended the Trust's lecture series and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. She was a member of St. Andrews United Church. Before her retirement she worked for many years at the National Research Council.

Good News for Heritage Buffs



This article was contributed by Brenda Shannon, Nova Scotia Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation.

New Funding

New funding of more than \$500 million to ensure the growth and development of Canadian culture was recently announced by the Federal Government. To be spread over three years, the funding included a welcome commitment of \$24 million for the preservation of our built heritage and was described in the press handout as "an important step in the strategy to create a climate of heritage conservation across Canada."

These funds will be devoted to developing some of the tools needed to stem the continuing loss of our built heritage and will include the creation of a national register of heritage properties, national standards and guidelines for their restoration and preservation, and a certifying function in the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, as announced in the 2000 federal Budget.

These are useful, multipurpose tools in and of themselves, but their real significance lies in the fact that they are prerequisites for any tax measures that the Department of Finance may consider to support built heritage.

For many months Heritage Canada Foundation staff has been working closely with officials in the federal departments of Finance and Canadian Heritage toward the adoption of tax measures that encourage the retention and restoration of our built heritage. They will continue to build on these encouraging first steps.

Other governments wisely supporting heritage: Ontario's recent budget speech included a provision to come into effect January 1, 2002, which will give municipalities the power to provide tax relief to "encourage the restoration and preservation of heritage buildings."

The Yukon government has just

topped up the Yukon Historical Resources Fund with \$436,000 to bring it up to the \$1million mark. The interest from the fund, which is to be self sustaining, is to be used to fund historic resources.

Prince of Wales presents award

On his recent visit to Canada, the Prince of Wales, a well-known advocate of built heritage, awarded the Prince of Wales prize to its first winner, the Town of Markham, Ontario. The prize, established by the Heritage Canada Foundation in 1999 with the direct support and involvement of the prince, is to be awarded annually to a municipal government which demonstrates exemplary commitment to its built heritage.

Founded in 1794 by William Moll Berczy and 64 German families, Markham has spent thirty years, in the face of relentless development pressures, demonstrating what a determined municipality can do to preserve its built heritage.

The Awards Jury noted the wide variety of legal means and incentives employed to protect heritage buildings and entire districts. Its many voluntary heritage preservation organisations, instead of being looked upon as, at best, quaint do-gooders and at worst as obstructionists, as is the case in many municipalities, have worked successfully with the local government to heighten public awareness and appreciation of the Town's heritage.

As Prince Charles noted, "The town has recognised the important role heritage resources can play in our society. In the face of rapid change, built heritage resources provide a sense of continuity, and help us attain a well-balanced community."

Markham's delighted mayor in accepting the prize called it the "Stanley Cup of heritage."

Among the other nominees for last year's prize were Lunenburg, Digby, St. John, Trois-Rivières and Victoria. Nominations for this year's prize are currently being adjudicated and the winning local government will be announced in August.

Heritage Trust's 2001 Illustrated Lecture Series

Founders and Pioneers

Unless otherwise stated, meetings of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Parking in the two museum parking lots and across Bell Road at the Vocational School. Info: 423-4807

Thursday, May 17, at 7:30 pm
Norden, Süden, Osten, Westen: The German Heritage sites in Halifax.
Speaker: Dr. Allen Robertson, Heritage Consultant and Biographical Researcher

Thursday, June 21, at 7:00 pm *Next!*
 Annual General Meeting of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia; lecture at 8 pm.
The Reverend James McGregor: The Highland Shepherd
Speaker: Alan Wilson
 Retired university teacher (Trent, History Dept.) and outstanding lecturer, Dartmouth native Alan Wilson gave the highly successful Atlantic Provinces History noon-hour series sponsored by the Halifax-Dartmouth Public Library and Saint Mary's University.

Thursday, September 20, 7:30 pm
The Early Chinese Community in Halifax
Speaker: Albert Lee, Photographer
 Albert Lee, whose exhibit "Growing Up Chinese in Halifax" was at the N.S. Museum, Summer St. November 1997- January 1998, will be assisted by members of the Ling and Fong families: Mary Mohammed, of Mary's Bread Basket, and Danny Fong, of the restaurant family (the Bon Ton and later the Garden View).

Forthcoming lectures will be announced in the September *Griffin*, continuing on October 18th with:

Acadian Architecture in the Port Royal Area
Speaker: Brenda Dunn, Historian

Programs sponsored by other societies

Many of the following organizations have fax or e-mail. To obtain numbers or addresses, please contact the group concerned by phone.

Amherst Township Historical Society

Regular monthly meetings, 4th Tuesdays at Cumberland Co. Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst. Details/ meeting times, ph: 902-667-2561.

Bedford Heritage Society

9 Spring Street, Bedford, NS, B4A 1Y4
 For dates of meetings/ programs, contact Marvin Silver, 835-0317.

Calligraphy Guild of N.S.

Meets 7-9 pm 3rd Mondays. Details: Les de Wit, 835-0508, or John Peake, 425-4128.

Canadian Authors Association - N.S. Branch

Meets 2 pm 4th Saturdays at NSARM, 6106 University Ave., Halifax.
 Contacts: Evelyn Brown, 466-2558, or Mary Ann Monnon, 902-542-2726, Wolfville.

Charles Macdonald Concrete House

19 Saxon Street, Centreville, NS.
 Talks 2-4 pm 4th Sundays. For speakers and topics, contact: Stephen Slipp, 455-0133 or 902-582-7901.

Saturday, June 9, noon-3 pm

Concrete Golf Tourney. Eagle Crest Golf Course, Saxon St., Centreville.

Sunday, August 26, 4pm

Blue Cottage Family Picnic, Huntington Point. BYO chair, plate, cutlery.
 Contact: 902-542-7203 or 902-582-7901

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Old Chester Train Station, Chester, Box 629, NS, BOJ 1J0.

Saturday, August 25, 10 am-4 pm

Annual Chester House & Harbour Tour with afternoon tea. Contact Duncan McNeill, 902- 275-3172.
 (Bus Transport: Hilary Grant, Foremost Tours 835-2795.)

Colchester Historical Museum

29 Yonge St., Truro, NS.

Until October 13

Year of the costume - special events.
 Exhibit: All Dressed Up and Somewhere To Go.

Sat, Sun. June 9-10

Workshop: Caring For Your Vintage Clothing.

Saturday, August 18

Workshop: Weave a Garden Hat.
 Contact: 902-895-6284.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth, 434-0222.

May 15-Oct. 15.

Year of the Costume Display - Women's War Work.

Saturday, June 16, 4:30-6:30 pm

Rhubarb Rhapsody: Adults \$7, Child \$5

Saturday, July 7, 2-4 pm

Strawberry Social: Adults \$6, Child \$5

Sunday, August 12, 7 pm

19th Century Flavours: \$20/person;
 Reservations required.

Sunday, August 26, 2pm

Garden Party: classical music with afternoon tea, \$8.

Saturday, September 8, 4:30-6:30 pm

Corn Boil and Ceilidh: Adults \$7,
Child \$5

The Heritage Farm *Rose and Kettle Tea Room* will be open mid-May to mid-October, from 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Saturday; 12-4 pm Sundays and Holidays; offering an all-day menu, a luncheon menu and afternoon tea. The Tea Room also has a personalized catering service for Sunday brunches, dinners, parties, receptions, showers, etc. for groups of 40 or less. Details: 462-0154.

Costume Society of Nova Scotia

Meets 7.30 pm, 3rd Mondays,
September to May. For new venue,
contact 490-5504 or 826-2506.

Cumberland Co. Museum

150 Church Street, Amherst, NS.
Contact: 902-667-2561

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth. Contact:
464-2300

May 23-September 2

Exhibit: Treasure Trove, Special
Selection from the Costume
Collection.

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

For details of Workshops and
Programs, 800-355-6873.

Fort Sackville Foundation/Scott Manor House

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford. For
hours, programs and events, contact:
832-2336 or 835-1924.

Saturday, July 21 - Saturday, July 28

Exhibit: costume reproductions from
the 16th century to the present by the
Society for Creative Anachronism.

Friends of McNabs Island Society

Sunday, June 3, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

(raindate: Sunday, June 10)

McNabs and Lawlor Island Beach
Sweep. Contact: Cathy McCarthy, 434-

2254, or Victor Dingle 463-4761.

Fultz House Museum

33 Sackville Drive, Lower, Sackville, NS.
For season opening date, contact 865-
3794.

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

NSARM, 6016 University Avenue,
Halifax. For details, 454-0322.

Saturday, June 2, 1-4 pm

Annual General Meeting and public
lecture. Speaker: Terrence M. Punch,
Topic: 18th Century German
Jurisdictions: How They Affect Your
Research

Le Musée Acadien de Pubnico-Ouest

For museum hours, programs and
activities, 902-762-3380

Lunenburg Heritage Society

Sat., Sun., September 15/16, 10 am - 4 pm

Historic House Tour - five houses, five
churches, Lunenburg Academy and
afternoon tea at St. John's Parish Hall.
The 'new' house Museums: Knaut
Rhuland House (1793) and Angus
Walters House (1923) are included in
ticket of \$15 - proceeds in support of the
Knaut Rhuland House Museum. Contact:
Sue Kelly, 902-634-4565.

Macdonald Museum

Middleton NS. Contact 902-825-6116.

Until November 21

Costume exhibit including 19th century
wedding dresses.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are
held from September to July, on the 4th
Wednesdays at Maritime Museum of the
Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street,
Halifax. For programs, speakers and
lighthouse tours, 424-7490.

Sunday, June 3

Land trip to Walton and Burntcoat Head
Lighthouses in cooperation with the
Halifax Outdoor Club. Early registration
required; for full details and registration
contact, Kathy Brown: 479-3115.
Planning July offshore trip to Bon
Portage Island near Shag Harbour;

August offshore trip to Isle Haute Bay
of Fundy 424-7490.

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum

Barss Corner, Lunenburg County, 902-
644-2375, or 902-644-2893.

Saturday, June 9, all day

Aunt Dinah's Family Festival.
Costumed events, displays, dinner and
dance.

Society for the Preservation of Eastern Head

Little River, Digby, NS
Exhibit of historically costumed dolls.

Waverley Heritage Society

1319 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley, NS.
Contact: Annie Smith, 861-2427.

Saturday, June 2, 9-12 am

Perennial Plant Sale; Waverley Legion
Hall.

Fridays, July 6 - August 31, 2-4 pm

Friday Afternoon Tea at the Museum.

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society

Ottawa House, Parrsboro, NS.
Contact: Susan Clarke, 902-392-2051.

Poetry Society of Nova Scotia

Meets September to June, 3rd Saturdays
at 2 pm, NSARM, 6106 University
Ave., Halifax. Contact Daphne
Faulkner, 423-5330.

Yarmouth County Historical Society and Museum

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, 902-742-
5539

Unless otherwise stated, the Society
meets the first Friday of the month at
7:30 pm; during the winter on the 2nd
Tuesdays the Society presents a
program of Armchair Travels with a
variety of venues and speakers.

*Doris Butters, who prepares Doris's
Column and these programme pages, is
recovering well from recent surgery. We
are all thinking of you, Doris, and look
forward to soon seeing you back in
action.*