

136 St George Street - PO BOX 503 ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, N.S. BOS 1A0 Telephone: (902) 532-7754 Fax: (902) 532-0700 www.annapolisheritagesociety.com Email: historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Newsletter – Summer 2008

In This Issue	
A Letter from the President	pg 2
Heritage Builders Ball	pg 2
The Royal Charter	pg 3
AHS Exhibits	pg 4
HAAR Garden Party	pg 5
Washing Soldiers 1797	pg 5
North Hills Museum Events	pg 6

deGannes – Cosby House Celebrates 300 years

In this edition of our newsletter we are providing a brief history of the deGannes – Cosby House, 477 St George Street, Annapolis Royal. This summer's Heritage Builder's Ball is being held as a celebration of the 300^{th} anniversary of this magnificent building as well as the fine legacy of built heritage in our community.

The deGannes - Cosby House is the oldest documented wooden structure in Nova Scotia and has been continuously occupied since its construction in 1708. It was built by Major Louis deGannes de Falaise - a native of France who was posted to Port Royal in 1696 - on the site of his previous house, which had been burned in the unsuccessful siege of the town in 1707. Using the cellar foundation and both standing chimneys, he raised a post and beam frame and filled the walls with wattle and daub. In 1710, Port Royal changed hands for the final time and was renamed Annapolis Royal in honour of the reigning Queen. Two

years later, the deGannes family returned to France.

Throughout most of the 18th century, the house was the home of the Cosby family, beginning with Alexander Cosby, who came to Nova Scotia in 1721 as a major in the 40th Regiment, commanded by his brother-in-law Richard Phipps, governor of the province. Alexander married Anne Winniett, the daughter of a prominent merchant in town. A son, Phillips Cosby, was a lieutenant with Boscowan's fleet at Louisbourg in 1758, and aidede-camp to General Wolfe at Quebec the following year. In 1809 the Reverend Cyrus Perkins purchased the house from the heirs of Anne Cosby. It served as the Anglican rectory during his tenure. Through the mid-nineteenth century, the house was owned by the prosperous Henkel and related Tobias families. It was during this period that the central dormer, shown in the photograph, was added. Later additions to the house included a large ell to the back and dormer windows. It is significant for its construction during the Acadian period, evident in its wattle and daub walls and the very wide floorboards visible in the ceiling of the first floor. It features a gambrel roof and clapboard siding. The deGannes-Cosby house is a provincially and municipally designated heritage building. It has had 16 owners in nearly three hundred years and remains a private residence.



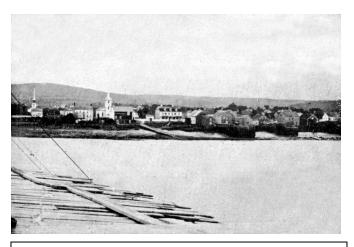
A Letter from the President

This year marks the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists to Nova Scotia at the close of the American Revolution. Their exodus from what was to become the United States of America began as a trickle of disaffected Americans from Massachusetts early in the war, and ended with the evacuation of tens of thousands of refugees from New York in the autumn of 1783.

For much of the ensuing time, the Loyalists have been romanticized as the cream of American society, Anglo-Saxon and blue-blooded. Some were indeed American's elite. General Timothy Ruggles had been Speaker of the Massachusetts legislature and had led its militia during the Seven Years' War. And the Delanceys of New York were major landowners and had been prominent socially and politically in that colony for nearly a century. But the Loyalists more properly represented a cross-section of American Society. Some were of English ancestry, such as General Ruggles, but many were of Dutch and French Huguenot ancestry, owing to New York's earlier settlement history. A number of Loyalists to the Annapolis-Digby area were disbanded German mercenaries, drafted by the Hanoverian George III during the American war, and settled on the Hessian and Waldeck Lines in Clements Township. Smaller numbers of Scots and Irish, and even a Swede and a Spaniard are recorded as Loyalists to this area.

The Loyalist migration also included several thousand black Americans, many of whom were the slaves of prominent white Loyalists. But the greater number were so-called Black Loyalists, former slaves of American rebels who had been guaranteed their freedom on crossing over to the British side. Most of the Black Loyalists were from South Carolina and Virginia, although all of the 13 American colonies were represented in their number.

More importantly for the development of Nova Scotia, these different peoples represented the entire social strata of America, and brought with them to our province a wide range of trades and skills and accompanying business acumen. As merchants, doctors, shipwrights, cabinet-makers, tailors, coopers or day-labourers, thev transformed an economy based previously on agriculture and the military. The social and political divisions the arrival of so large a number of refugees created with Nova Scotia's earlier settlers subsided after a generation. By the opening years of the 19th century the colony was able to prosper and grow, largely due to this flood of unwilling settlers. Ian Lawrence



The area along Lower St George Street in Annapolis Royal is one of Canada's best preserved Loyalist era landscapes. This image, taken from the Granville ferry slip about 1860, shows a number of the buildings that have not survived.

The AHS Heritage Builders' Ball History in the Making

Be part of history at the **The Heritage Builders' Ball**, the Annapolis Heritage Society's major fundraiser of the 2008 season, Saturday, July 12th, at the Annapolis Royal Legion.

The Ball is being held to honour the 300th anniversary of the deGannes-Cosby house, constructed in 1708 and continuously occupied since then. We are thrilled to announce that The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, O.N.S., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, has graciously accepted our invitation to be the Ball's Guest of Honour, a wonderful recognition of our community's extraordinary tradition of built heritage and stewardship.

The Ball takes place from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am in the Legion Hall. You'll dance all evening to the sounds of the Annapolis Big Band and our own "DJ". Perhaps win one of the five truly fabulous "Builder" door prize packages donated by area merchants! Admire the beautiful decorations by Garry Freeman and his team and enjoy the delicious dessert buffet!

Only 144 tickets have been issued and they're going quickly. To order yours, telephone the O'Dell Museum in Annapolis Royal at (902) 532-7754 or drop in if you are in town (136 Lower St. George Street). Dress is "party pretty", or you can wear your very own heritage costume if you have one! Thanks for your support!

Jane Nicholson, Chair, Heritage Builders' Ball

The Royal Charter of Nova Scotia

On a daily basis countless Nova Scotians hear, read, or pronounce the distinctive name of our province - *Nova Scotia*. Our beautiful Nova Scotian flag flies proudly at provincial government buildings, as well as many commercial buildings and private residences. The coat-of arms of Nova Scotia are the oldest in Canada. How many of us have ever stopped to ask ourselves three basic questions?

1. What is the history behind the origin of the name *Nova Scotia*?

2. How did we obtain our provincial flag?

3. How did we obtain our provincial coat-of arms?

The answers to these questions are found in an exciting period of early 17th century exploration and settlement in our region - a history that all Nova Scotians should be aware of, but sadly, few of us have been exposed to in our education or daily life. The origins of our provincial name, flag and coat-of-arms are linked to a document signed at Windsor Castle on September 10 1621, with the Great Seal affixed at Edinburgh Castle on September 29 of the same year- the 1621 Royal Charter of Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotians are fortunate that an original copy of the 1621 Royal Charter of Nova Scotia is on display at Fort Anne National Historic Site of Canada in Annapolis Royal. Written in Latin on sheepskin parchment, it is one of the oldest original documents that we have in Canada that relates to our own history. Some would call it the "birth certificate" of Nova Scotia. All Nova Scotians should have an awareness of their Royal Charter and we should all commemorate and celebrate the vibrant legacy it has created.

The founding of a New Scotland in North America was part of the general European colonization efforts during the 1620s and 1630s. In 1621, King James the VI of Scotland and I of England granted a charter to establish a Scottish colony in North America to Sir William Alexander, a Scottish noblemen, well known poet and courtier at the courts of King James and his son King Charles1. In the same manner that the French, English, and Dutch had established a New France, a New England, and a New Netherland, the Scottish were to establish a New Scotland. Sir William Alexander, who later became the Earl of Stirling, was the personal favourite of the Stuart Kings of England and Scotland in their dealings with Scotland. Sir William wanted to share in the glory and profit of overseas expansion. Using his influence, he persuaded King James to support his plan to establish a Scottish colony in North America.

In 1621 King James issued the Charter of New Scotland that granted Sir William land which today comprises Nova Scotia. New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and the Gaspé Peninsula. This territory, however, was also claimed by the French, who occupied it Mi'kmaq, Maliseet. with the and Passamaquoddy. Nevertheless, Sir William continued with his venture. On the map of New Scotland, therefore, today's St. Croix River is the Tweed, the St. John River the Clyde, and the territory is divided into Alexandria and Caledonia.

The Charter granted Sir William extensive powers including:

-title of Lieutenant-General, with the authority to divide the territory and name places;

-right to all minerals and precious stones except for a tenth of the gold and silver, which went to the Crown;

-control of the fresh and salt water fishery;

-the right to establish cities, fortresses, castles, laws, and courts;

-authority to grant titles and appoint officials, and coin money for use in the colony;

-the power to sign treaties and establish alliances with the Aboriginal people

-exemption from import duties to Britain for seven years, followed by five years with taxes of only five percent.

Sir William discovered that colonization was expensive. In 1624, therefore, King James offered the title of Knight-Baronet of Nova Scotia to any Scottish noblemen who equipped and sent out six settlers. No one accepted. However, James' successor, Charles 1, persevered. In 1625 he renewed the Charter and provided for 150 baronets. Eighty-five baronets were created, but they barely increased the number of settlers. The Order of the Knights-Baronet still exists.

In 1629, approximately 70 men, women and children established Charles Fort at Port-Royal, led by Sir William Alexander the Younger (Sir William's son) and Frenchman Claude de Saint-Étienne de La Tour, who had switched allegiance.

Many of our descriptions of the early Scottish settlement at Port-Royal are obtained from the documents of Richard Guthry, a member of the 1629 expedition.

"On July 28th we anchored before Port Royal. We sailed up the river where we saw the ruins of two forts; the one built by Monsieur de Poutrincourt, who was driven out by Sir Samuel Argall - an English Captain, and another one built by Monsieur Charles de LaTour's son Charles.

Disliking both locations we sailed higher and found a place fortified by sea and by land rising above the main river, having on the east a small river where we found the ruins of a small watermill built by the French. Well may it be termed a Port Royal, a royal entry, a river navigable twenty leagues by ships of the burden of two and three hundred tonnes, fortified on both sides by hills, and fruitful valleys adorned and enriched by trees of all sorts."

Guthry also describes Charles Fort - the fort that the Scots built on the present day Fort Anne site. It was the first fort built on the site.

"The plan of the fort was drawn by Captain Ogilvie in the form of a pentagon, with many outer works good for both offence and defense. Before the latter end of August the fort was finished, eight pieces of ordinance planted, the magazine built and stored, and the General's house formed.On August 20th Sir William Alexander the Younger christened the fort "Charles Fort" in honour of Charles I, in a ceremony marked by many shots of ordinance and great joy and solemnity."

According to Guthry the Scots at Port-Royal seemed to have experienced positive encounters with the First Nations of the region.

"On August 10th there came two Aboriginal men in a birch bark canoe with their wives and children, their language is marred by the Basque language. On the 14th day there came some Aboriginal men and boys in a shallop from the Saint John River with beaver and moosehides. They gave our general a gift and he entertained and traded for some small items."

Although 30 settlers died the first year, the settlement then slowly gained a foothold. The settlers planted crops of onions, cabbage, turnips, carrots, parsnips, radishes, peas and barley. In the fall Claude La Tour brought Mi'kmaw Chief Segipt, his wife and his son, to Europe to be presented to the King. Britain, by the 1632 Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Lave, returned Acadie to France, yet claims to New Scotland continued for years.

Sir William Alexander's attempt at founding a New Scotland, although short lived, left an enduring legacy, particularly the name Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia is the only province granted its flag through Royal Charter, In addition, by May 1625, the Crown awarded the province its coat-of arms.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada erected a monument to commemorate the national significance of the Scottish settlement at Charles Fort in 2006. In 1989-1990 Parks Canada archaeologist Birgitta Ferguson led a team that uncovered part of Charles Fort at the present day Fort Anne site in Annapolis Royal. She found a few artefacts from Charles Fort that are presently displayed in the Fort Anne Officer's Quarters. Her archaeology combined with the Richard Guthry documents in Edinburgh authenticate the actual site of Charles Fort as being in present day Annapolis Royal.

Contributed by Alan Melanson

AHS Exhibits

Lovalists in Annapolis County

This season, the exhibits at the O'Dell House Museum are designed to commemorate significant anniversaries in our community. As mentioned in the President's Letter, 2008 is the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists in Annapolis County. To mark this occasion, we have gathered together relevant artifacts and archival materials from public and private collections to create an exhibit on the Loyalists and their legacy in Annapolis Couty. Among the artifacts which have been loaned for the exhibit are a section of the pine tree which Col. James DeLancey hid in to avoid capture by revolutionary forces and a wonderful sampler made by seven year old Elizabeth Burkett in 1783. This exhibit opens in early July and will run until December.

The Tent Dwellers

In August, the O'Dell House Museum will open an exhibit based on the book *The Tent Dwellers* by Albert Bigelow Paine. The book, written in 1908, tells the story of American sports Paine and Dr. Edward Breck along with their local guides Charles Charlton and Del Thomas as they paddle and fish in the area that is now Kejimkujik National Park. The exhibit will concentrate on the men who took the trip as well as featuring artifacts which would have been used on such an adventure.

Jacob Bailey: Loyalist, Reverend, Annapolitan

The AHS has been active with out heritage partners in the creation of two new exhibits to anniversaries celebrate of important individuals from our region's past. The Exhibit "Jacob Bailey: Loyalist, Reverend, Annapolitan" was opened at Fort Anne National Historic Site on June 21. This exhibit, which commemorates the 200th anniversary of Rev. Jacob Bailey's death in 1808, was opened in conjunction with the launch of Kent Thompson's new Jacob Bailey biography "The Man Who Said No". The exhibit itself draws upon artifacts and archival material held by the AHS, Parks Canada and private individuals from our community. This exhibit is an excellent opportunity to learn about the life of a man who lived through interesting times and took a great deal of effort to chronicle his experiences.

100 Years of Ernest Buckler

Additionally, AHS has worked with James House Museum in Bridgetown to produce an exhibit to commemorate local author Ernest Buckler's 100th birthday. The exhibit, 100 Years of Ernest Buckler, is located at James House Museum and will be moved to the O'Dell House Museum in October. In addition to artifacts and archival materials related to the Annapolis alley's most renowned writer, the exhibit re-creates the schoolroom scene from perhaps his most famous book, The Mountain and the Valley. There will be an opening for this exhibit from 2-4 pm on July 17 at the James House Museum.

1708-2008 deGannes-Cosby House 300th Anniversary Garden Party

A milestone in Nova Scotia's built heritage will be commemorated on **Saturday July 12**, **2008**, when the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal hosts a Garden Party between 2:00 -4:00 pm at 477 Saint George Street to celebrate the oldest house in Nova Scotia: the 300 year old deGannes-Cosby House owned by Jim and Pauline How.

Her Honour the Honourable Mayann E. Francis, O.N.S., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia will be in attendance. The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal would be honoured if you could grace us with your presence on this historic occasion.

The attire for the event is smart casual or period costume. There will be entertainment and light refreshments will be served. Attend the Garden Party and be part of history!

In case of rain the event will be moved to the Royal Canadian Legion in Annapolis Royal.

Alan Melanson, Historical Association of Annapolis Royal

Washing Soldiers 1797

Based on the success of last year's Tales from a Tiny Perfect Town event, The Education and Outreach committee of the Annapolis Heritage Society has decided to make another attempt at historical drama. This year, playwright Kent Thompson has returned with a script based on the 1797 visit of the Duke of Kent to Annapolis Royal entitled *Washing Soldiers 1797*.

Unlike *Five Stab Wounds in the Governor*, this year's performance will be held outdoors at the Annapolis Royal Farmers and Traders Market. Other changes from last year include a total of four performances and we not be charging admission. As we are using this as an educational opportunity as well as a chance to have some fun with our history, we will be asking patrons for donations at appropriate intervals during the performance so we can cover our costs.

The play will take place in September and we will be posting additional details about *Washing Soldiers 1797* on the AHS website www.annapolisheritagesociety.com.



North Hills Museum Events August - October 2008

For more information on any of the following events please contact us at 902-532-2168 or thurbejl@gov.ns.ca.

August 8th at 6pm - **Country and Bluegrass Jam Session** with a BBQ/Pot Luck Supper. Bring a salad or dessert for supper at 6; the museum will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. The jam starts at 7 and you can join in or just listen to talented local musicians at this free family event. 50/50 draw. Admission to the museum is by donation. Don't forget to bring your chair!

August 10th from 2-5pm - **Teddy Bear Picnic** for the young and young at heart. Bring your favourite bear and enjoy various Teddy Bear events and treats. There will be displays and bears for sale too!

August 22nd at 7:30 pm - An **oral history evening** based on the life of Mr. Robert Patterson. Special guests will be in attendance.

August 23rd from 2-5pm - **Bob Patterson's 100th Birthday** - An afternoon Celebration of Mr. Robert Patterson and his gift to the people of Nova Scotia in what would have been his 100th Birthday year. Join us for a social time and sample some of Mr. Patterson's favourite foods, visit with former employees of the museum, meet former and current Patterson scholarship winners, listen to live entertainment and have some birthday cake!

Sept. 6th from 2-4pm- **Tea at Two** - Enjoy afternoon tea, home baked sweets and a visit to the museum! This is the last chance to meet and chat with the artists and acquire art created during the Artifacts and Interiors event in July.

Sept. 13th from 9:30am-5pm- **Rug Hooking for Beginners** - Join Kay Magwood, a gifted rug hooker and instructor from Bridgetown for a fun day of basics. You will receive and work on a kit created by Kay that has been patterned after North Hills Museum. Cost is \$45 per person and advanced registration required as space is limited.

Sept. 21st from 10am-4pm - North Hills Roadshow with Roger Crowther and Friends. Bring your Silver, jewellery and books to be appraised by our experts. The cost for the event is \$5 for one item or \$8 for two. Advance appointments will be set up to avoid long waits. Coffee and tea provided.

Sept. 27th from 9:30am-5pm - **Rug Hooking for Intermediate** - Join Kay Magwood from Bridgetown for a fun day of learning. You will receive a kit based on the museum. Cost is \$45 per person and advanced registration is required as space is limited.

Oct. 4th from 1-5pm - **Cider Making Workshop** - Enjoy an afternoon with local cider producers and enjoy the fruit of the Annapolis Valley.

Do You Have?

North Hills Museum is looking for a number of used white sheets which can be used for drop cloths when winterizing the site. The drop cloths are used to prevent dust from accumulating on artifacts during the winter months. If you have some cloths that you would be interested in donating please contact Janice Slauenwhite at historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca or 902-532-2168.

AHS Request for Volunteers

The AHS is constantly in need of volunteer labour. It is only through the dedication and generosity of our volunteers that the AHS has been able to play an important role in preserving, promoting and presenting the heritage of Annapolis County. In this edition of the newsletter, we will profile a few of the volunteer committees and opportunities that can be found at the AHS. If you are interested in helping out with one of the following positions or have other skills you would like to share, we would be thrilled to hear from you. We greatly appreciate the generosity and dedication of the volunteers who allow the AHS to function. Please contact us at one of the numbers given below or at 902-532-7754 or historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Job Title: Accessioning Clerk

Committee: Collections Management and Archives Time Required: Approx 4 hours per week Contact Person: Ryan Scranton 532-7754 Job Description: Document new acquisitions to the

AHS artifact and archival collection by: -Making an identification number on each item -Recording details and description of item on hard copy forms and in digital database -Researching items as needed

Job Title: Genealogical Research Volunteer Committee: AHS Genealogical Centre Time Required: One afternoon per week Contact Person: Ryan Scranton – 532-7754 Job Description: Genealogical Centre volunteers assist researchers who are using AHS resources. -Develop knowledge of AHS genealogical reference collection -Collection of research fees and sales of retail merchandise as needed -Shelving of genealogical resources

Job Title: **Events Volunteer** Committee: North Hills Museum Time Required: 3-4 hours during events Contact person: Janice Slauenwhite – 532-2168 Job Description: volunteer will assist the staff at North Hills Museum during special events by: -greeting visitors to the site -helping with set up and clean up

Shipping and sailing are major themes for the exhibits at the O'Dell House Museum this summer. The exhibit *A Camera on the Banks*, which depicts the local schooner fishery at the end of the age of sail, is being co-hosted with the Admiral Digby Museum. Additionally, our permanent exhibit *Annapolis Goes to Sea* chronicles the history of shipping and shipbuilding in Annapolis County. The image at the bottom of this page, taken circa 1890 is of the crew of the Clementsport ship *E.E. Potter*.

Annapolis Heritage Society 136 St George Street PO Box 503 Annapolis Royal, N.S. B0S 1A0

Telephone: (902) 532-7754 Fax: (902) 532-0700 www.annapolisheritagesociety.com Email: historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca

> President Ian Lawrence

Executive Director Ryan Scranton





Genealogy Books and CD Roms For Sale

** All prices include shipping and handling charges**

Due to the ongoing fluctuations with the Canadian dollar, we have removed our American pricing. Please contact the AHS at historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca for current American pricing.

Resources on CD Rom	CDN \$				
Bear River Telephone and News Vital Statistics by Wayne Morgan					
Christian Messenger Vital Statistics 1837 – 1884 by Wayne Morgan					
Annapolis County Probate Abstracts by Wayne Walker					
Annapolis Newspaper Vital Statistics 1832 – 2004 by Wayne Morgan					
Annapolis County Regiments by Wayne Walker					
AHS Genealogical Centre Books					
Please visit our website www.annapolisheritagesociety.com for a full list of books.					
□Master Artificer John Easson by Ruth Ritchie					
□John Harris Esquire by Wayne Morgan					
The Starratts and their Descendants by Luella Marshall					
The Descendants of Loyalist Andrew Ritchie by Ruth Ritchie					
The Descendants of John Ritchie, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia *NEW*					
The Scattering of the Descendants of Robert Hicks by Luella Marshall					
Please make cheques payable to Annapolis Heritage Society Total \$					
Name Telephone					
Address					
Postal / Zip Code Email					

Annapolis Heritage Society Annual Giving

This is your chance to help the Annapolis Heritage Society preserve, present and promote your history.

The AHS has always relied on the generosity of its members, whether in donating artefacts, archival material, cash or hours of volunteer effort. Our leadership in developing museums and supporting heritage preservation has much to do with our members. As both the Federal and Provincial governments continue to decrease their support of heritage based activities we are constantly searching for new ways to replace these long time sources of funds.

Donations to Annual Giving help us to meet basic operating needs, expand existing programs and services, and build our collections. It is only through the generosity of our members and friends that we are able to maintain a high level of service.

Your support is essential to our future. Please help us to ensure that **your** history has a secure home. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Annapolis Heritage Society.

Yes, I would like to make a gift of:

\$25	\$50	\$100	\$250	Other
Name:				
Address:				
Prov/State	Postal/Zip Code _		Email:	
	y gift to support: ations	Other		
Please make ch	neques payable to: Annap	olis Heritage Socie	tv. All donations \$25 an	d above will be issued a Canadian

AHS Annual Giving Fund PO Box 503 Annapolis Royal, NS BOS 1A0

tax receipt.