

The Trinity Historical Society Vertical Files. - 1964 - . - 100 cm

Administrative history

The Trinity Historical Society evolved from a committee elected as a result of a resolution made at a public meeting attended by Mr. J. R. Tucker, M.P. and chaired by Mr. Ambrose Clarke in Trinity on February 7, 1964. This committee was called the Trinity Historic Sites Committee. Its aim was to develop Fort (Admiral's) Point and Ryder's and Gun Hills as National Historic Sites, with the immediate areas being established as National Historic Parks. The members elected at this community meeting were Messrs Raymond M. Parsons, Harry Chaulk, Peter Coleridge, Cal Goldsworthy, Ambrose Clarke and Rupert Morris. Mr. Walter G. C. White, residing for the winter in St. John's, declined membership on this committee because of ill health but collected relevant material and became the contact for the committee with government agencies in the city. Mr. White and Rev. Edward Hunt were named honorary members and Mr. Louis Laite joined the group at a subsequent meeting.

In addition, the group wished to reconstruct and pave the road from Dunfield to the fort and to construct and pave a road around or over Gun Hill and Ryder's Hill. While these ideas held intrinsic value, an additional benefit was seen as bringing much needed employment to an area which was in a state of economic decline in the post- confederation era. A target date of 1967 for completion was set; this being the Centenary of Confederation. The committee also started to collect information from local, provincial, national and international sources to establish and verify various claims being made regarding Trinity's historic resources, heritage and history.

Despite platitudes from all government departments both federal and provincial, numerous submissions to all agencies and site visits from officials, little of a substantial nature was accomplished regarding the main objective of the Committee. Nevertheless, a large and relatively unknown (to experts) collection of material was assembled by the members and many generous donors.

By 1966, the province-wide "Come Home Year", the committee had collected more than enough material to establish an exhibit of archival material, charts, diagrams of local roads, diaries, account books, photographs and drawings of the town and ships, flags, histories etc. This exhibit was held at the Court House in the Public Building. The exhibition was prepared by the Historic Sites Committee and the Come Home Year Committee, membership being common to both. Not only was the exhibit very well received and praised, but the spectrum and volume of material collected surprised many.

Subsequently and because of the success of the exhibition and the enthusiastic support received from all communities in the area and of former residents it was decided by members of these committees that a permanent museum and archives be formed. Thus, on November 21, 1966, Trinity Historical Society was established with the following members present: - Rupert Morris, President; Louis Laite, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter White, Corresponding Secretary; and members Raymond M. Parsons, Peter Coleridge and Calvert Goldsworthy. At the next meeting, Messrs. N. Stuart Fraser, Cyril Hiscock, Norman Macfie and Clarence B. Dewling (Mount Pearl), were added to the membership. By 1968 the membership had expanded to include: Rev. G. W. Ethridge, Ada L. Green, Margaret

Parsons, Stella E. White and from St. John's, Marie Eriksen, Mary M. White and Ross Batson. All those named are considered to be founding members.

By November 26, 1971, the date on which Trinity Historical Society was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization, it had acquired additional property next to the museum and had greatly expanded both its collection of artifacts for the museum and archival material. The Society and its activities had by now received provincial and national recognition and correspondence was being exchanged world-wide.

Finally in 1978 a one and one-half million dollar project was announced stating that Trinity was to be a "Heritage Village". However, the extent of federal and provincial funding was insufficient to cover the full cost of the undertaking and the project was renamed "The Trinity Restoration Project" for the length of its existence which ended in 1983. As a result of the project many older buildings including the Parish Hall, the Court House (Public Building), and the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches and the Mortuary Chapel were refurbished on their exterior, private dwellings were supplied with wood roof shingles, the Wesleyan/Methodist School (SUF Hall) was acquired and refurbished, a start was made on reconstructing the Garland Shop (Ryan's), the Hiscock House was acquired and restored to the 1910 period, and a private dwelling was purchased and later moved to the Historic Site, remodelled and opened as the Interpretation Centre, and contracts were let for research on various aspects of the history of Trinity.

Once the Trinity Restoration Project was underway, the prime task of the Trinity Historical Society was to maintain and operate the museum and archives and to provide advice to researchers and the project as required. The Society was also actively engaged in planning future projects, especially those dealing with expansion of its facilities because both the museum and archives were overflowing with material and because the restoration or reconstruction of historic sites and buildings, particularly the Fort, the Lester-Garland House and portions of the Lester-Garland Provincial Historical Site were taking place.

The Society was particularly pleased and surprised in 1990 to receive the donation of the Green Family Forge from Ada L. Nemeč. Although the Greens operated a blacksmith business in Trinity prior to 1770, the present building was built in the 1890s and functioned until 1955. Along with the building came the tools of the trade and about fifteen hundred (1500) artifacts. The building has been refurbished and the artifacts treated and preserved. It was opened to the public in 1991. Mrs. Nemeč also proposed in 1995 that she donate her Grandparents home and her collection of toys, dolls, needlework, and china to the Society. This offer has been accepted and plans are being prepared to establish the house as a blacksmith's home incorporating exhibits of toys, needlework and china and to establish a display garden of vegetables, flowers, berries and shrubs on the property.

In 1996, the Society purchased the Court House, Gaol and General Building from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and during 1997 opened an office and archives. Most of the archival textual materials, including books, journals, newspapers, ledgers, maps and charts and office files etc., as well as photographic materials not on display elsewhere have been relocated from the Museum, the homes of S. R. Morris and David White, the Methodist School and other locations to the Archives. This material was arranged, catalogued and organized during the summers of 1997

and 1998 and a finding aid created for the material. In 2000, Sheila Vokey arranged the black and white photographs according to Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and Roberta Thomas, contract archivist, arranged the textual material. In 2001 the office and archives moved to the Lester-Garland House.

Source:Administrative History taken from notes written by David R. L. White, President of Trinity Historical Society.

Custodial history

The vertical files consist mainly of magazine and newspaper clippings on various topics of interest. These clippings were saved by members of the Trinity Historical Society since its formation in 1964 with each topic receiving a file folder. The material was originally housed in the home of Stephen Rupert Morris, it was then relocated to the Courthouse, Gaol and General Building in 1996 when the Society opened an office and archives, in 2001 the archives was moved to the Lester - Garland House. In 2000, a contract archivist removed all original documents from the vertical files and added them to their respective fonds. In 2001, the contract archivist removed any materials that were related to the Stephen Rupert Morris fonds or the Walter G. C. White fonds. The remainder of the material that was left formed the vertical files. According to archival policy all magazine and newspaper clippings have been photocopied and the originals destroyed.

Scope and content

The files have been placed in alphabetical order.

Location: Trinity Historical Society Vertical Files, Drawer 1

- 1.01 Admiral's Point/ Fort Point
- 1.02 Anglican Diocese of Central Newfoundland
- 1.03 August, John
 - 1.03.1 Ballet
 - 1.03.2 Barbour, Florence Grant
- 1.04 Bartlett, Otis
- 1.05 Battle Harbour
- 1.06 Beothuck
- 1.07 Bonaventure - English Harbour Development Association (BEDA)
- 1.08 Bishop White All Grade School
- 1.09 Bonavista Peninsula
 - 1.09.1 Bonavista Peninsula - Local Trails
- 1.10 Book - *Symbols and Artifacts* (copy)
- 1.11 British Harbour
- 1.12 Bullock, Rev. William
 - 1.12.1 Butt, Donna
- 1.13 Calos Youth Orchestra
 - Caribou see *SS Caribou*
- 1.13.1 Champney's Arm
- 1.14 Champney's East
- 1.15 Champney's West
- 1.16 *Churches in Newfoundland* by D. W. Prowse (copy)
- 1.17 Churchill, John

- 1.17.1 Clergy - Anglican Parish of Port Rexton
- 1.17.2 Clergy - Anglican Parish of Trinity
- 1.17.3 Clergy - Methodist Church
- 1.17.4 Clergy - Roman Catholic, Church of the Most Holy Trinity
- 1.18 Clinch, Rev. John
- 1.18.1 Colonial and Continental Church Society 1823-1923
- 1.19 Confederation
- 1.20 Court Documents
- 1.20.1 Crafts
- 1.21 Cross, Captain William G.
- 1.22 Customs
- 1.23 Dates in History
- 1.24 Directory, 1877 (copy)
- 1.24.1 Discovery Trail Tourism Association
- 1.25 Doctors
- 1.26 Documentary
- 1.26.1 Doors Open
- 1.27 Dunfield
- 1.28 Dwellings and other Buildings
- 1.29 Education
- 1.29.1 Elections
- 1.30 English Harbour
- 1.30.01 English Harbour Arts Association
- 1.30.1 Entertainment, visits
- 1.31 Farewell to the Matthew
- 1.31.1 Ferries
- 1.31.2 Four H Club
- 1.32 Fox Island
- 1.33 French invade Trinity, 1762
- 1.33.1 Ghosts
- 1.33.2 Goose Cove
- 1.34 Harbour Defence
- 1.35 Ireland's Eye
- 1.36 Ivanhoe
- 1.36.1 Kearley's Harbour
- 1.37 Lahey, Captain Anthony
- 1.38 Lester - Garland House
- 1.38.1 Lions Clubs
- 1.38.2 Little Harbour
- 1.38.3 Lockston
- 1.39 Lockyer, Canon William J.
- 1.40 Loyal Orange Lodge

Location: Trinity Historical Society Vertical File, Drawer 2

- 1.41 Maidment, Henry Herbert Pittman
- 1.42 Maidment, Rev. George Herber
- 1.43 Mail

- 1.44 *Marion Rodgers*
- 1.45 Marriages
- 1.46 Masonic Lodge
- 1.47 *Matthew*
- 1.48 *McAdam, S. S.*
- 1.49 Methodism
- 1.50 Moors, John
- 1.50.1 Mortuary Chapel
- 1.51 New Bonaventure
- 1.53 O Buona Vista Committee
- 1.54 Old Bonaventure
- 1.55 Ottenheimer, Gerald
- 1.57 Personalities A -F (clippings about various people in the area)
- 1.57.1 Personalities G-L (clippings about various people in the area)
- 1.57.2 Personalities M-R (clippings about various people in the area)
- 1.57.3 Personalities S-Z (clippings about various people in the area)
- 1.58 Poetry
- 1.59 Poole
- 1.59.1 Pope's Harbour
- 1.60 Port Rexton
- 1.60.1 Port Rexton Anglican Parish
- 1.61 Railway
- 1.61.1 Random Island
- 1.62 *Random Passage - The Miniseries*
- 1.62a *Random Passage - The Site*
- 1.62.1 Revue, Rising Tide
- 1.63 Rinding
- 1.64 Rising Tide Theatre
- 1.64.1 Rising Tide Theatre Advertisements
- 1.64.2 Rising Tide Theatre Brochures
- 1.64.3 Rising Tide Theatre Programmes

Location: Trinity Historical Society Vertical File, Drawer 3

- 1.65.1 Rites of Passage - Births, Birthday Anniversaries
- 1.65.2 Rites of Passage - Death
- 1.65.21 Funeral Service Forms
- 1.65.3 Rites of Passage - Graduations
- 1.65.4 Rites of Passage - Marriages, Engagements, Anniversaries
- 1.66 Roads
- 1.67 Roman Catholic, Church of the Most Holy Trinity
- 1.67.1 Royal Bank of Canada
- 1.67.2 Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
- 1.68 Ryan Premises, Bonavista
- 1.69 St. Paul's Church, Trinity
- 1.70 Sealing
- 1.71 *Shipping News*
- 1.72 Shipyard

- 1.71.1 Shipwrecks
- 1.73 Slade and Kelson
- 1.74 Smith, Canon Warrick
- 1.75 Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG)
- 1.76 Songs
- 1.77 Square Dance Instructions
- 1.77.1 Spaniard's Cove
- 1.78 Statistics
- 1.78.01SS Caribou
- 1.78.1 Sullivan, Rose M.
- 1.78.2 Transatlantic Telephone Cable
- 1.79 Trinity East
- 1.80 Trinity
- 1.80.1 Trinity, Anglican Parish
- 1.81 Trinity Bay Disaster
- 1.81.1 Trinity Benefit Club
- 1.81.11 Trinity Bight Businesses
- 1.81.2 Trinity Bight Business Partnership
- 1.81.3 Trinity Bight Tourism
- 1.82 Trinity Clippings
- 1.83 Trinity Community Plan
- 1.84 Trinity Festival
- 1.85 Trinity Historical Society
- 1.85.1 Trinity Historical Society - Displays & Projects
- 1.86 Trinity Loop
- 1.86.1 Trinity, Town of
- 1.87 Trouty
- 1.88 Vessels
- 1.89 *Weekly Record*, 1888
- 1.90 Whale Factory
- 1.91 Whitbourne, Sir Richard
- 1.91.1 White, David R. L.
- 1.92 White, William - *History of Trinity*
- 1.93 *Young Triffie*