



Trinity Historical Society

Newsletter, Issue 4

June 2021

K. Coope, J. Morris, Eds.

The Trinity Historical Society (THS) is pleased to announce that it has established an annual Trinity Historical Society Scholarship at Bishop White School. This \$100 scholarship will be awarded to a level 2 or 3 social studies student who has established an appreciation for history. The Society has also established the Trinity Historical Society Loyal Trinity Ranger Award. This award will be awarded annually to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the promotion and preservation of our collective heritage. This individual will be nominated from the THS membership. The nominations will be reviewed by a committee of the Board and the recipient selected by the Board.

The THS welcomes application for membership from anyone interested in the objectives and activities of the Society.

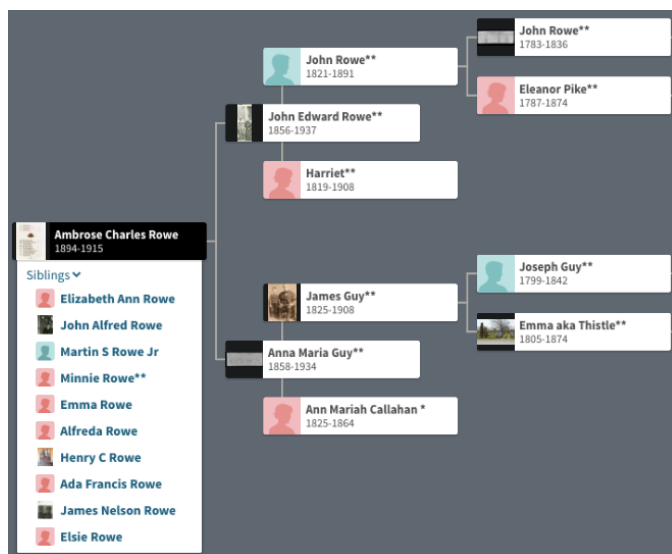
In this issue of our newsletter we present the story of the 4th of the 21 men named on the Trinity War Monument.



Ambrose Charles Rowe

Ambrose Charles Rowe, the son of John Edward Rowe and Anna Maria Guy, was born in Green's Harbour on July 30, 1894. He joined the Newfoundland Division of the Royal Naval Reserves in WWI and died in the sinking of the HMS Viknor, becoming the first casualty of the war from Trinity. He was 21.

Charles family tree is shown in the figure, right:



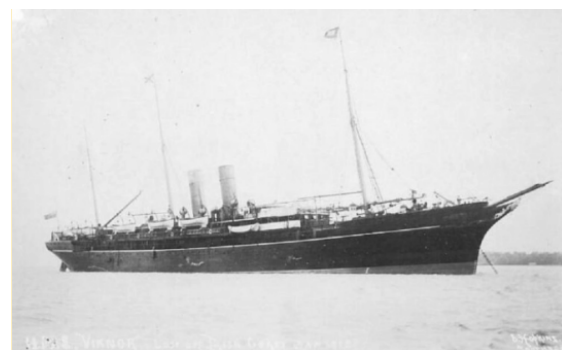


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In January 1915 Charles was serving as a seaman onboard HMS Viknor. The Viknor was an armed merchant cruiser in the 10th cruiser squadron, Mercantile Marine Reserve. She carried a crew of 295, of whom 25 were Newfoundlanders. She was the most northerly ship on the Northern Patrol Line B, north of the Shetland Islands.



HMS Viknor

On January 11, 1915 the Viknor intercepted the Norwegian SS Bergensfiord about 90 miles NNW of the Shetlands, on suspicion that German reservists were aboard. A boarding party discovered 8 stowaways and passengers, one of whom was Baron HA von Wedell, a notorious German spy. The 8 were taken prisoner aboard Viknor and a prize crew put aboard Bergensfiord. Viknor escorted the Bergensfiord toward Kirkwall as far as Fair Island Channel, and then departed for Liverpool. She was never seen again. Her last message gave her position as 56°18'N 9°W on a heading of S21°W, steaming at 10 ½ knots. Her intended route was to the latitude of Tory Island, then along the Irish coast to the North Channel. She disappeared in heavy weather. No distress signal was received. There were no survivors. Many bodies washed ashore. Of the Newfoundlanders, one body was recovered and is buried in Scotland. The others, including Charles, are listed on the memorial at Beaumont-Hamel. The cause of the sinking has never been determined but her wreckage was found in 2006 at the edge of a minefield that had been laid the previous fall.

