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**Your Local Paper**

# Trinity Bight Enterprise

Issue #153

February 2026

A publication of Trinity Historical Society Inc.



JJ Miller, Dunfield, Age 8

Service Schedule – February 1 – February 25, 2026

February 1 <sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday After Epiphany (Proper 4) (Green)	11:00 A.M. Church Of The Good Shepherd (Dunfield) 7:00 P.M. St. Andrew's (Trinity East)	Holy Communion  Evening Prayer
February 8 <sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday After Epiphany(Proper 5) (Green)	11:00 A.M. St. Clement's (Champney's West) 7:00 P.M. St. John The Evangelist (New Bonaventure)	Holy Eucharist  Evening Prayer
February 15 <sup>th</sup> Transfiguration Sunday: Last Sunday After Epiphany (White)	11:00 A.M. St. Paul's (Trinity) 7:00 P.M. Christ Church (Port Rexton)	Holy Eucharist  Holy Eucharist
February 18 <sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday (Purple)	7:00 P.M. St. Paul's (Trinity)	Imposition Of Ashes
February 22 <sup>nd</sup> First Sunday In Lent (Purple)	11:00 A.M. St. Andrew's (Trinity East) 7:00 P.M. St. Matthew's (Trouty)	Holy Eucharist  Evening Prayer
February 25 <sup>th</sup> Mid Week Lenten Service (Purple)	7:00 P.M. Christ Church (Port Rexton)	Lenten Reflection and Meditation



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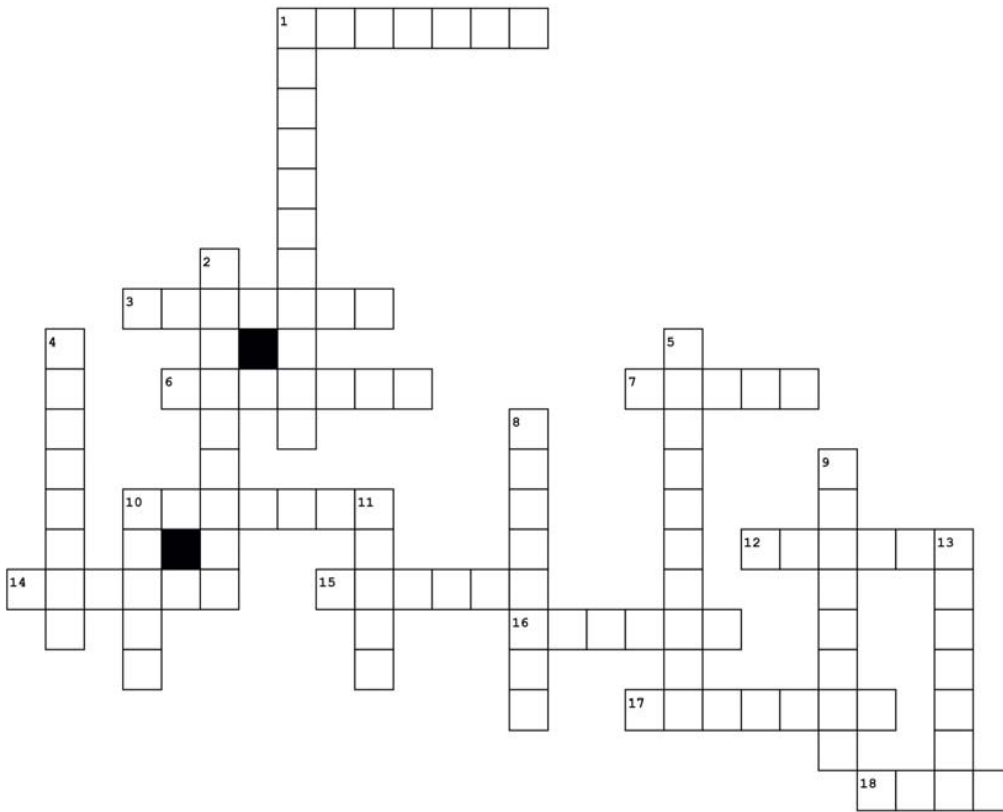


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## Trinity Historical Society

If you would like to place an ad in the March issue of Trinity Bight Enterprise please send it along to programming@trinityhistoricalsociety.com by Friday, February 20th. Mailout is scheduled for Friday, February 27th.

# February 2026



## Across

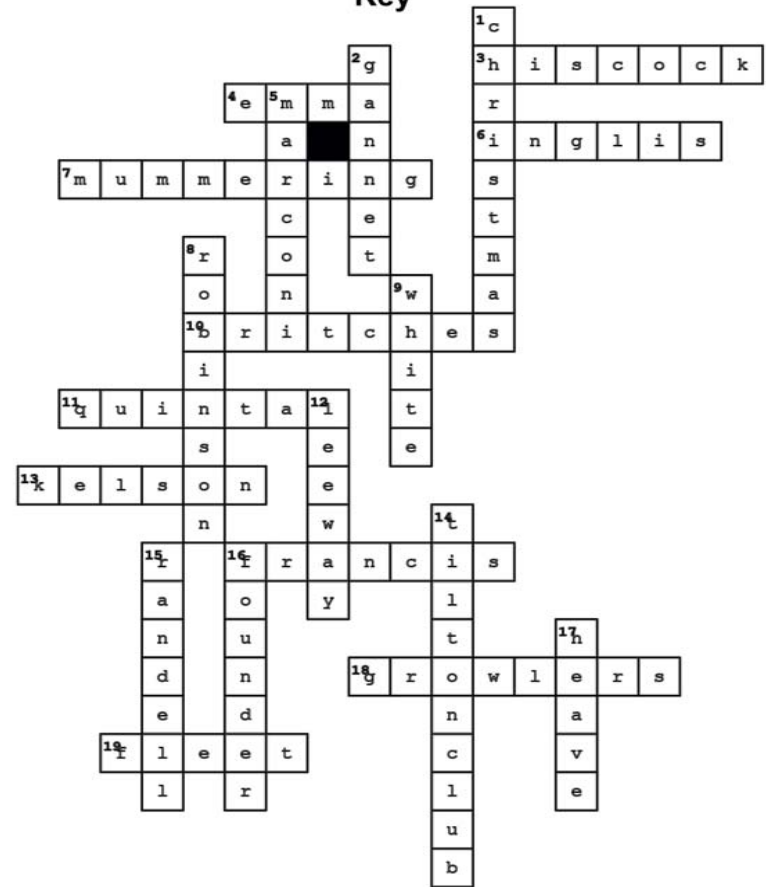
1. Thomas Street's Trinity business partner in the late 1700s.
3. The second principal of Bishop White School.
6. The Trinity Bay \_\_\_\_\_ Disaster occurred on February 27th, 1892.
7. Thick wool socks worn in winter boots.
10. Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Ash was present when survivors of the Greely Expedition were found.
12. A \_\_\_\_\_ generation saltbox is two story with a one story linhay.
14. Candlemas Day occurs on February \_\_\_\_\_.
15. A tall Trinity poet who once lived in the oldest house in Trinity.
16. The Newfoundland \_\_\_\_\_ Society opened a school in Trinity in 1824.
17. The cove on the south side of the isthmus leading to Champney's West.
18. Jagged rocks north of Bonaventure Head.

## Down

1. The cove between Green Island Cove and Suly's Cove in Dunfield Bight.
2. The distance from the waterline of a vessel to the edge of the main deck.
4. He used his own money to build the first church in Trinity.
5. Trouty and \_\_\_\_\_ Brooks are the two licensed salmon rivers in the bight
8. Gary \_\_\_\_\_ owns the oldest documented house in Trinity.
9. The street in Trinity where the Parish Hall and Courthouse are located.
10. The term which describes an incoming tide.
11. The name of the rope used to trim a sail.
13. A common punishment for women who comitted crimes in the 1600s.

# January 2026

## Key



## Across

3. He operated a ferry between Fisher's Cove and Fahey's Neck.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Hiscock operated the post office located in Hiscock House.
6. The bishop who consecrated the second St. Paul's in 1827.
7. January 6 is the last night for this NL tradition.
10. The egg sac of female cod are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
11. A 56 pound weight is exactly one half of a \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The artillery commander for the Loyal Trinity Newfoundland Rangers.
16. First name of the Trinity sea captain who lived in Anchorage on Ash's Lane.
18. Small icebergs that pose a danger to fishing boats.
19. Benjamin \_\_\_\_\_ was the first teacher in Trinity.

## Down

1. January 6 is known as Old \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
2. Diving white seabird with black wing tips.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ received the first wireless signal on Signal Hill in 1901.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ & Brooking leased the Garland Plantation from 1852 to 1869.
9. In All Around the Circle what was Susan's surname?
12. The sideways drift of a vessel to leeward when underway.
14. The finest band in Joe Batt's Arm Longliners.
15. The Port Rexton son who fought in WW I and volunteered again in WW II.
16. A NL term used to describe the collapse of a cliff or iceberg.
17. The term which describes the vertical up and down movement of a vessel.



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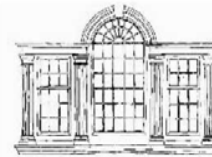
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## Trinity Historical Society

*Copy and Printing Services*

For any of your copying, faxing, lamination and printing needs please contact us. Competitive rates. Please forward along by email to [info@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@trinityhistoricalsociety.com) or drop by the Lester-Garland House. Please call in advance to ensure that someone is at the office 709-464-3599.



# Trinity Historical Society Inc.

## Membership Form - 2026

**Individual Membership** - \$30.00 per person.

**Family/Household Membership** - consists of two adults residing in the same household and would also include children - \$50.00 per year.

For any additional donations of \$20.00 or more towards the general operational expenses of the Society a receipt for income tax purposes (Canadian) will be provided.

The Trinity Historical Society thanks you in advance for expressing an interest in becoming a member and for taking a continued interest in the work of the Society as we continue to Preserve, Present and Promote our Heritage.

Name (s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Residence): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to become a member of the Trinity Historical Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation towards the general operational expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque or money order payable to: Trinity Historical Society Inc.

- 1) Email application and E-transfer to - [ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com)
- 2) Mail application with a cheque to us: Trinity Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 8 Trinity, NL A0C 2S0.
- 3) Drop by Lester Garland House in Trinity.

# PENDING FUNDING APPROVAL

## Attention Students

Trinity Historical Society Inc.  
is now accepting resumes from high school and  
post-secondary students for positions  
at the historic sites in Trinity for the 2026 summer season

Criteria for student positions varies depending on the available grants.

All applicants must:

- be between the ages of 15-30;
- be legally entitled to work in the province and Canada;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have refugee status in Canada; - not hold another job of 30 or more hours per week during the employment period.

Some grant programs will also require applicants to:

- be enrolled in high school (Level I, II or III) or a post-secondary institution in the 2025-2026 school calendar year; and
- be intending to return to school full-time in September 2026; or
- be graduating from Level III in June 2026 and planning to pursue an education at a post-secondary institution in September 2026.

To express your interest for a position with Trinity Historical Society please send a resume and cover letter to the following:

Jim Miller  
Trinity Historical Society  
P.O. Box 8  
Trinity, NL A0C 2S0  
E-mail: [ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com)

**Please Note students in these positions are expected to complete tours to the public; potentially be handling cash and or credit/debit purchases and will be responsible for reconciling at the end of the day and may have to participate in programming activities at some of the historic sites that could include mat hooking or demonstrations in other crafts or trades.**

### Closing Date: 5 p.m. Friday, April 24, 2026

# Early Medical Services in Trinity

Kevin Toope

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The medical instruments displayed at the Trinity Museum were used in Trinity by Dr. Arthur White in the late 1800s. Can you imagine the anxiety and fear associated with visiting the doctor at that time? Trinity's archives document the presence of medical services in Trinity since the mid 1700s.

The earliest person of record with any medical knowledge in Trinity was Sam Harris, the son of an English surgeon. As a boy Sam helped his father in his surgery. When his father died, Sam came out to Newfoundland and arrived in Trinity in 1747 bringing all his father's surgical instruments with him. He immediately became the town doctor although there is no evidence that he had medical training in addition to helping his father.

Sam was recorded to be somewhat eccentric and was thought to be in league with the devil. Residents reported strange noises coming from his house late at night. Sam Harris died in Trinity in 1798 and was buried in St. Paul's churchyard. We suspect a lot of his victims are buried there as well.

In 1753 Benjamin Lester, the wealthiest Trinity merchant, brought Dr. John Lane out from England to look after his family and indentured servants. In his diary Lester referred to Lane as a drunk and his services to be of dubious quality. He recorded an incident of Lane turning up late to treat him for an injury and "being drunk as usual." Dr. Lane married Eleanor Coleman in Trinity in 1765, and they had a son the following year before departing Trinity.

Lester then brought a German doctor, Godlove Porsch to Trinity. He is recorded in Trinity's archives on three occasions. The first involved the death of Richard Cove as reported in the following church burial record.

Nov. 11, 1768: Interred, Richard Cove, servant to Dr. Godlove Porsch. He was deluded to elope from his master with several valuable articles by some villains. Afterwards he was found strangled in the "noose of a garter".



## Interested in Becoming a Trinity Historical Society Member

Have an interest in local built heritage; your family history and more.

Have you ever considered becoming a member of Trinity Historical Society?

To learn more about our work visit our website - [www.trinityhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.trinityhistoricalsociety.com) and Follow Us on Facebook - Trinity Historical Society.

Membership is open upon application, see application on the next page.

Below is a description of what our membership types are and what is included:

**Individual Membership** - \$30.00 per person.

**Family/Household Membership** - consists of two adults residing in the same household and would also include children - \$50.00 per year.

Please note that a Family/Household Membership has all the same great benefits as Individual Members but with a cost savings for a family and includes two membership cards.

### Individual and Family Membership Benefits

- 15% Discount at Lester-Garland House Gift Shop
- A copy of the publication "*The Story of Trinity*" (one copy per household upon acceptance of membership)
- Free admission to THS sites (Lester-Garland House, Cooperage, Green Family Forge, Trinity Museum, Methodist School House and Fort Point)
- Monthly newsletter - *The Trinity Bight Enterprise*
- Notification of upcoming events
- Voting Privileges at the THS Annual General Meeting
- THS Membership Card

Completed membership applications along with the appropriate fee can be received by any of the means listed below:

- 1) Email application and E-transfer to - [ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com)
- 2) Mail application with a cheque to us: Trinity Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 8 Trinity, NL A0C 2S0.
- 3) Drop by Lester Garland House in Trinity.



## *Our Covers*

We are looking for your help for our Trinity Bight Enterprise covers in 2026.

Have an old photograph of your community that you would like to share, a community event or maybe it's a more current photo that you've snapped of something in nature that you would like to share with everyone.

Or maybe you like to draw, sketch or paint.

If you have something for us to consider for our covers during this year please send it along to us for consideration.

You can either email us - [ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com) or drop by our office with a photo or photos and we will scan them on-site. If you are e-mailing us your image please ensure they are at least 600 dpi.

## *Your Poems, Stories Etc*

Do you have a story from your community that you would like to tell (current or a story that's been passed down to you), a poem that you've written that you want to share or something else.

We are looking for your written work to put in our Trinity Bight Enterprise throughout 2026.

Send it along to us - [ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com)

There is nothing in the records indicating who did the strangling or who owned the garter. Maybe the deed was carried out by the good doctor himself, because there is some evidence that he was capable of violence.

The second time Porsch's name appears in the court records is when he and Tom Stone, one of Lester's agents, were convicted of assaulting the parson, Reverend James Balfour. They were summoned to appear before the Governor's representative. Stone was convicted of cuffing the parson on the cheek and Dr. Porsch was convicted of pinching his nose. They were both fined 6 shillings and 6 pence and were ordered to go and beg the parson's pardon, which we are quite sure was the hardest part of the punishment.

The final time Dr. Porsch's name appeared is in the record of his own death. The records state that on October 18th, 1769 Dr. Porsch and a small boy left Trinity to cross to the other side of the harbour onboard a small boat with a sail attached. Just off from the shore the boat overturned in a squall of wind. Dr. Porsch became entangled in the rigging of the sail and was pulled underneath the boat and drowned, in sight of a hundred workers who could do nothing to save him. He was interred in St. Paul's churchyard. We wonder if Reverend Balfour took pleasure in performing the burial ceremony.

Dr. D'Ewes Coke came to Trinity from St. John's on November 1, 1769 to replace Porsch as surgeon and he also served as Justice of the Peace and Naval Officer while in Trinity. He left in 1783 and later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in St. John's.

His replacement was none other than the Rev. Dr. John Clinch.

This is just one of the stories featured in our new audio tour at the Trinity Museum. The tour relates people and events to displays at the Museum. Please visit the Museum and listen to all the stories. The audio tour is free for residents of Trinity Bight and Trinity Historical Society members.



# Trinity Historical Society Newsletter, Issue 60

January 2026

R. Coape, J. Morris, Eds.

Trinity Historical Society would like to wish all of our readers a very Happy New Year. We had a very busy 2025. Please see our Annual Report for details.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we present the remarkable story of Cyril Gardner from British Harbour.

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



Family Tree



## Cyril Gardner



**Cyril, the son of Arthur Gardner and Mary Colbourne and brother of Edward James, was born at British Harbour on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1885. He enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1914. He was declared missing in action at Monchy Le Preux on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1917 during the Battle of Arras. He was 31.**

**Cyril first saw action at Gallipoli and was wounded at Beaumont-Hamel on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1916, the same day his brother, Edward James, was killed. He rejoined the regiment in August 1916 and was promoted to Sergeant. He received a Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in an action on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1916 and was promoted to Company Sergeant Major on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1916. He received a bar to his Distinguished Conduct Medal for single handedly capturing 72 German soldiers on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1917. After their capture a German officer presented Cyril with his Iron Cross Medal for his role in protecting the captured men from other British soldiers. He was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1917. He was killed by shell fire a month later. His parents received 20 British pounds for each of his medals. He is remembered on the Beaumont-Hamel Memorial, Beaumont-Hamel, France.**



Distinguished Conduct Medal



German Iron Cross