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**Newsletter – Autumn 2008**

ANNAPOLIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

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***Washing Soldiers 1797***

As this newsletter is being written, we are between performances of this year’s Tales from a Tiny Perfect Town play “Washing Soldiers 1797”. So far, the play, which is held outside at the Annapolis Royal Farmer’s Market, has been a rousing success. We are pleased to report that we had 100 patrons on opening night and 160 on the second night. As long as the weather holds, we are hoping for good crowds on the second weekend as well.

In anticipation of the visit of the Duke of Kent, some special preparations are undertaken in Annapolis Royal! Set at Molly’s bath house and in a shelter at Babineau Heights, “Washing Soldiers 1797” features original music by Wayne Currie, bawdy humour and a little of the naughtiness inherent in the life of 18<sup>th</sup> century Annapolis Royal. The cast, Rich Cianflone, Wayne

Currie, Brenda Keen, Mike Gunn and Brenda Thompson, have done a marvellous job of bringing the essence of events in a late 18<sup>th</sup> century garrison town to life.

The play, which is an attempt to bring history out of the museum and onto the street, was produced by AHS education committee chair Sherry Caldwell. The AHS would like to thank all of the cast, crew and volunteers who have given their time and talents to make this production possible.

“Washing Soldiers 1797” follows on the heels of last fall’s wildly successful play “5 Stab Wounds in the Governor” also written and directed by Kent Thompson. For those who are interested, we have t-shirts, soldier soap, and CDs of the performance available at the O’Dell House Museum gift shop or by calling 902-532-7754.



In a scene from *Washing Soldiers 1797*, bathhouse owner Molly (Brenda Thompson) refuses to return Sergeant Ellis’ (Wayne Currie) clothes until he pays his two shillings.

## ***A Letter from the President***

As Canadians prepare for our country's 40th general election since Confederation on October 14th, and as Nova Scotians, we take part in municipal elections a few days later, it might be useful to remember that universal suffrage was not gained in a single event, but rather has been a process of incremental gains.

These gains were celebrated in the province this year with the Democracy 250 events commemorating the introduction of a legislative assembly in 1758. In that year, the right to vote was granted to freehold landowners in Nova Scotia (presumably male, white and Protestant), in an attempt to make the nascent British colony more attractive to potential English speaking settlers. That right did not extend to Roman Catholics, who were later enfranchised with the repeal of the British Penal Laws in 1827. On occasion, female landowners, few in number and generally widows, voted in Nova Scotia's earliest elections; however, despite having the legal property qualifications, as women their right to vote was disputed. (Shocking to 21st century ears, women did not gain suffrage in Canada until 1920.)

The limited democratic powers invested in the legislature of 1758 did not include parliamentary accountability, whereby ministers of the Crown were drawn from and responsible to the elected assembly, the mark of true democratic government. That battle was not won in Nova Scotia until 1848, the so-called "winning of responsible government", when a premier, James Boyle Uniacke, and cabinet drawn from the elected assembly and accountable to a majority of that body, took office, a first in the British Empire apart from Westminster.

So when you go to the polls next month, spare a thought for those Nova Scotians of 160 years ago who, in 1848, thought it was important to agitate for what you may be inclined to take for granted. They might have been your ancestors!

By Ian Lawrence, President AHS

As an interesting side to this article, over the past few years the Annapolis Heritage Society has been trying to develop a collection of local, historically relevant political memorabilia. If you have campaign material related to local candidates from years ago, please contact Ryan Scranton at [historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or 902-532-7754

## ***Annapolis Heritage Society Annual General Meeting***

The Annapolis Heritage Society's Annual General meeting will take place on October 9 at St Luke's Anglican Church in Annapolis Royal. The meeting will start at 7pm. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Roger Crowther who will share some of his experiences of being an appraiser on the Canadian Antiques Roadshow. Roger has a vast knowledge of antiques and this should be a very interesting evening.

In an attempt to attract greater numbers to the meeting, we are encouraging members to bring a friend with them. The AGM is an excellent opportunity to learn about the ongoing activities of the AHS and its museums. We know that there are people in the community who are interested in the activities of the society but they may need a nudge from one of our current members to get them involved. Another attempt to increase participation will be to offer a door prize to those at the meeting. Our prize, a free one year membership (which is transferable if the winner is already a life member), will allow the winner to visit each of our sites without paying admission fees, research in the Genealogy Centre free of charge and receive four copies of the AHS Newsletter. Additionally, if any of our members have transportation issues, we would be happy to try to arrange a car-pool to allow more people to attend. Please call Ryan Scranton at 902-532-7754 for more information on carpooling.



Christchurch Anglican in Karsdale, is one of the few Loyalist era churches which survive in the Province. Built in 1791 according to the wishes of Bishop Charles Inglis, this church was originally called St. Paul's but was renamed in 1882.

## *Annapolis County Families*

### ***THE JOHN RITCHIE FAMILY, Annapolis Royal, c. 1774***

The Ritchie family is considered to be among the nine septs of the Clan MacKintosh, though some accounts state that the affiliation is with Clan MacPherson. Both MacKintosh and MacPherson are among the seventeen Septs considered to belong to the great Clan Chatten. There appears to be two groups of Ritchie families, one that settled in the Border area of Scotland and the other in the Highlands. In his "History of the County of Annapolis", Calnek expressed his belief that the two Ritchie families who eventually settled in Annapolis Royal between 1770 and 1783 were from Ardoch in Perthshire, which is in the area south east of the Highlands.

The first to arrive was John Ritchie who, with wife Jennet, had sailed from Edinburgh to Boston in 1770. Jennet is thought to have died in Boston, possibly in childbirth. John settled in Annapolis Royal sometime before 1774 and there married the daughter of Francis B. LeCain, Alicia, who bore him three children. John went into business as a merchant and was soon involved in the affairs of the town and county. He is believed to have been the nephew of Andrew Ritchie, who arrived in Annapolis Royal in 1783 as a Loyalist, and who appears to have been in partnership with him as early as 1773 and perhaps earlier, transporting and trading goods between Nova Scotia and Boston and supplying the Loyalist forces during the Revolutionary War.

In 1781, John was captured at Annapolis Royal by the crew of an American privateer and later released on parole and promise of exchange for an American prisoner at Halifax. He was chosen for the Assembly in 1782 and sat two sessions. He was a Justice of the Peace and in 1788 was appointed a lay Judge of the Inferior Court Of Common Pleas. During the late eighteenth century, members of his family owned what is now known as the Adams-Ritchie house, built about 1713 by John Adams on Saint George Street in Annapolis Royal.

John Ritchie's shipping business met with financial reverses and he died while in financial difficulty at the age of 45. His young family thrived, however, thanks to the

assistance of the LeCain and Andrew Ritchie families, and went on to produce many men of eminence in the legal profession.

Ritchie's eldest child, John Corbett Ritchie, son of Jennet, accepted a commission in the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment, appearing as a junior Lieutenant in 1796. After the regiment disbanded in 1802, he moved to Sydney, Cape Breton, where he became a mines superintendent and later a lease holder of the Cape Breton coal mines until 1818. He was married first in 1800 to Alexis Campbell, who died at the birth of their fourth child, and second in 1807 to Amelia Matthews. His daughter by his second marriage married into the Dodd family, prominent in legal circles, and went on to produce a number of sons who also pursued the practice of law.

John and his second wife Alicia's eldest son, Thomas, was 13 years old when his father died. He studied law at an early age and was admitted to the bar about 1795 and elevated to the bench in 1824. Thomas married first Elizabeth Johnstone, who bore him seven children, one of whom was Sir William Johnstone Ritchie, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Another son was the Rev. James Johnstone Ritchie, barrister and rector of St Luke's Church in Annapolis Royal.

Thomas' second marriage was to Elizabeth Best, who died childless when thrown from her horse. His third wife was Anne Bond and they had two children, one of whom was the Hon. Joseph Norman Ritchie, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. Of Thomas's family, five sons, eleven grandsons, five great grandsons, and three great great grandsons entered the legal profession, and of these six went to the bench in Canada. Very few, if any, of their descendents presently live in Nova Scotia but may be found as far away as British Columbia, South Africa and New Zealand.

John and Alicia's daughter Ann married Daniel James and they and their descendants settled mainly in Nova Scotia, with a few emigrating to Maine in the mid to late 1800s. The descendants of John and Alicia's youngest son, Andrew Stirling Ritchie, settled primarily in Annapolis County until the late 1800s and early 1900s when many emigrated to various parts of the United States. Andrew's descendants may also be found in England and Israel. Some Annapolis County names

connected to these families are Gormley, Harris, James, McClafferty and Whitman.

A full genealogy of the John Ritchie family is available at the O'Dell House Museum (136 St George Street) in Annapolis Royal. The Annapolis Heritage Society Genealogy Centre, located in the museum, houses information not only on this family, but also on other families from the western part of Annapolis County. Volunteers are on site to help researchers from 1pm - 4pm Monday to Saturday. For more information, visit [www.annapolisheritagesociety.com](http://www.annapolisheritagesociety.com) or call 902-532-7754.

By Ruth Ritchie

### ***Family History Day***

On September 13, approximately 40 people gathered at the Macdonald Museum in Middleton for the Digby Annapolis Museum's Committee's second Family History Day. The purpose of this event was to provide a forum for genealogists to gather, learn about genealogy and share some of their experiences with likeminded people. This year's event was called *Finding your Loyalist Roots* and was in celebration of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists in Nova Scotia.

Participants were treated to a wonderful array of speakers with topics ranging from Loyalist history to practical sessions on how to do genealogy. At the start of the day, keynote speaker Dr. Sharon Oliver discussed the history and importance of the Black Loyalists. This was a very interesting and timely presentation as there is growing interest in the story of the Black Loyalists. Noted genealogist Dr. Alan Marble presented two sessions, one dealing with Loyalist physicians and the second on how to publish your genealogy. One of the more compelling sessions included a tour of the Loyalist era Old Holy Trinity Anglican Church (built in 1789). While participants were at the church, they were able to participate in a presentation by Debra Trask, Nova Scotia's foremost expert on grave markers. Other sessions included how to use archival finding aids, getting the most out of genealogy databases and an introduction to genealogy. A final highlight was the Loyalist fashion show presented at the end of the day using the Annapolis Heritage Society's reproduction costumes.

The Digby Annapolis Museums Committee members include Islands Historical Society, Admiral Digby Museum, Annapolis Heritage Society, James House Museum and Macdonald Museum Society. The group was founded in 2003 with the idea of working cooperatively on projects and promoting heritage in our region. The first Family History Day was held in Cornwallis Park in 2006.



### ***Loyalists to Annapolis County Circa 1783***

The Annapolis Heritage Society Genealogy Centre has recently launched five new Loyalist family genealogy books. These books, part of the Society's new *Loyalists to Annapolis County Circa 1783* series, are the work of four volunteers at the O'Dell House Museum (Ina Oliver, Denise Rice, Ruth Ritchie and Frank Taylor). The researchers have traced the lines of the Durling, Gesner, Andrew Ritchie, Merritt, and Williams families who arrived in Annapolis County at the end of the American Revolution. The launch itself took place at the Granville Ferry Community Hall on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

At the end of the war, some 1600 refugees landed on the shores of the Annapolis Basin. These people, who in some cases had suffered numerous hardships and inhumanities, had chosen to stay loyal to the British Crown and



were among a group who would become known to history as the United Empire Loyalists. Contrary to popular belief, the Loyalists represented all segments of 18<sup>th</sup> century society rather than just the Tory elite. In fact, the Loyalists include everyone from slaves and indentured labourers to aristocrats and Governors among their ranks.

The Annapolis Heritage Society is very pleased that we have been able to create this series of books to celebrate our region's Loyalist heritage. The Loyalists as a group have greatly influenced the development of Nova Scotia's and it is appropriate that we commemorate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their arrival. It is our hope that these titles will allow descendants of Loyalists to learn some of their personal history and to celebrate their family story.

The Annapolis Heritage Society Genealogy Centre is located at the O'Dell House Museum (136 St. George Street) in Annapolis Royal. The Genealogy Centre collects records and documents on families who have lived in the western part of Annapolis County. This material is available to researchers on a daily basis.

### ***North Hills Museum 2008 Events***

As the North Hills Museum season comes to a close in a few weeks, a glimpse backward shows a very productive series of events, all profitable, well received and beneficial to the AHS's mandate to preserve, promote and present the Annapolis Royal area history.

Workshops, musical events, artistic activities, history programs and community gatherings were all carefully placed throughout the traditionally busy summer months, keeping in mind other community programs.

Our well attended workshops included Loyalist Costume Creation with well known designer Ken Nye, a Three Day Writers Weekend with Maritime author and lecturer Donna Morrissey, and a Loyalist Quilting Workshop with master quilter Helen Brown. We also sponsored a Teddy Bear Picnic and Workshop for young and old alike.

Musical events at the site included a Fourth of July Country & Bluegrass Jam session, an August Musical Jam Session and Barbeque, and the North Hills Community Picnic that

featured the Granville Ferals, the Musique 400 Dancers and musicians Jeanne Doucet-Currie and Wayne Currie. Over 100 friends of the museum attended these events.

Our historical events included the annual Artifacts and Interiors Day and its follow-up Tea at Two Party, an Oral Histories Wine & Cheese Reception with Historian Ern Dick, and a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Bob Patterson. Our latest event was the North Hills Road Show with Roger Crowther of the Antique Road Show Program, Leslie Lawrence and JoAnn MacKay.

We will conclude our Program of Events on October 4<sup>th</sup> with the Cider Making Workshop featuring Dr. Jim Inglis. We thank all the local volunteers, and community supporters for their active support for the North Hills Museum.



### ***Our Prize Winning Float***

The Annapolis Heritage Society entered a float in Annapolis Royal's Natal Day parade this summer. The float was designed and built by Ken Maher and our summer students Laura Achenbach, Tim Cress, Adam Glenan, Jordan Milne and Katie Wooler. The float played with the parade's theme of "community spirit" featured the ghosts of the Sinclair Inn enjoying spirits in the O'Dell House tavern. The AHS was awarded the Judge's Special Prize for our entry. Our thanks go to Millie Hawes for her help with costuming.



## ***92 Volunteers and Donors Make Heritage Builders' Ball Success for Annapolis Heritage Society***

Thanks to the efforts of 92 volunteers and supporters, the Annapolis Heritage Society's Heritage Builders' Ball, held to honour Jim and Pauline How and celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deGannes-Cosby House, was an enormous success.

The Ball was graced by the presence of Her Honour, the Honourable Mayann E. Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. In her remarks to the Ball guests, Her Honour praised the community spirit of Annapolis Royal and surrounding area residents. These sentiments were echoed by Ball Chair Jane Nicholson, Vice President of the Annapolis Heritage Society.

"It took 92 volunteers, sponsors, donors and other supporters to make this event happen. And another 120 people to buy the tickets and swirl around the dance floor to the sounds of the Annapolis Big Band. They are all heritage builders in their own way...folks who have restored their buildings, shared their expertise, volunteered their time, donated their products or their hard earned cash... all to continue the tradition of built heritage and stewardship in our community. This Ball was about them."

Volunteer Garry Freeman masterminded the decorations in the Heritage Builders theme and he and his team transformed the Legion into an elegant building site. Blaine Allaby and his bakers and volunteers provided for and staffed the sumptuous Dessert Buffet.

The Ball, sponsored by local businesses Aberdole & Associates Inc., Annapolis Royal Home Hardware Building Centre and Brown Bros. Excavating Ltd., raised over \$6,000 to help continue the preservation work of the Annapolis Heritage Society.

### ***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](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or 902-532-2168.



Jim and Jean McGinis enjoying a dance at this summer's Heritage Builders Ball.

### ***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](mailto: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



*Summer 2008 in Photographs*



Jim How and Sylvia Yeoman at the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deGannes-Cosby House.



Ray Sanford painting at North Hills Museum during the 2008 Artifacts and Interiors event.

Retired North Hills Museum guide Jean Young cuts the cake at an event held to commemorate what would have been Bob Patterson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Lt. Knox (Mike Gunn) and Srgt. Ellis (Wayne Currie) in a Scene from *Washing Soldiers 1797*.



Musique 400 dance at North Hills Museum during the Granville Ferry picnic.

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***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](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca) for current American pricing.**

<i>Resources on CD Rom</i>	<i>CDN \$</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear River Telephone and News Vital Statistics by Wayne Morgan	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Messenger Vital Statistics 1837 – 1884 by Wayne Morgan	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annapolis County Probate Abstracts by Wayne Walker	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annapolis Newspaper Vital Statistics 1832 – 2004 by Wayne Morgan	\$36.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annapolis County Regiments by Wayne Walker	\$30.00

Please visit our website [www.annapolisheritagesociety.com](http://www.annapolisheritagesociety.com) for a full list of books.

**\*NEW\* *Loyalists to Annapolis County circa 1783* \*NEW\***

<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Durland (Durling) by Ina Oliver	\$37.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Abraham and Henry Gesner by Ruth Ritchie	\$47.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah Merritt by Frank Taylor	\$52.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Ritchie by Rith Ritchie	\$52.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Jasper Williams by Denise Rice	\$32.00

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my gift to support:

General Operations \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: **Annapolis Heritage Society**. All donations \$25 and above will be issued a Canadian tax receipt.

AHS Annual Giving Fund  
PO Box 503  
Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0