



# Trinity Historical Society Newsletter, Issue 2

April, 2021

K. Coope, J. Morris, Eds.

At the Society AGM on February 18, 2021, Maurice Devine was elected to the Board by acclamation. We welcome Maurice to the Board and thank retiring director Edmund Burry for his service as treasurer during his term. At the first meeting of the new Board the following executive was chosen:

President: Ian Morris  
Vice-President: Kevin Toope

Secretary: Joan Kane  
Treasurer: Tony Huys

The other members of the board include Gerald Spurrell, Past President and Geoff Dawe, Director.

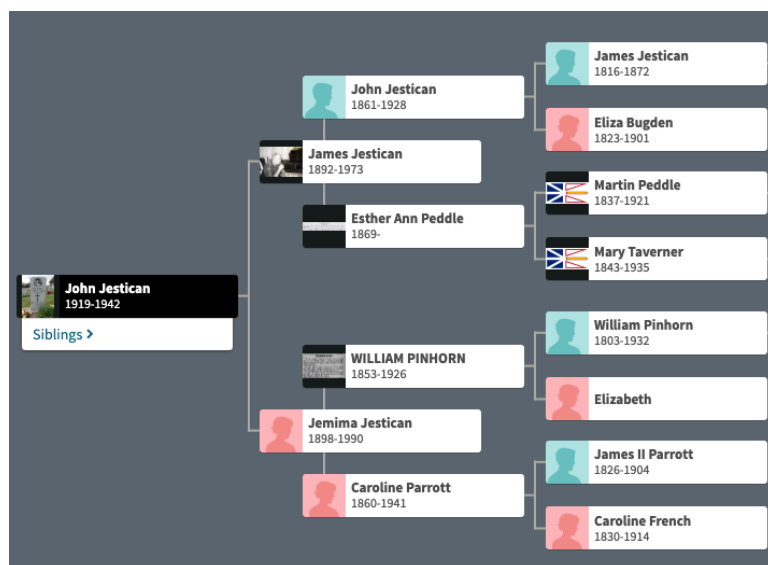
As a continuation of the theme of our first newsletter, we present the story of the second of the 21 men named on the Trinity War Memorial.



## John Jestican



John, the only son of James Jestican and Jemima Pinhorn, was born in Lockston on June 19, 1919. He enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on November 30, 1942. Twelve days later, on December 12, 1942, he died in the Knights of Columbus Hostel fire in St. John's. He was 23.





On Saturday night, December 12, 1942 an estimated 350-400 servicemen and civilians gathered at the Knights of Columbus Hostel on Harvey Road in St. John's to partake in Uncle Tim's Dance Party.



Knights of Columbus Hostel, erected December 1941

Shortly after 11 pm a devastating fire erupted consuming the building in minutes. Eighty servicemen and 19 civilians died, and 109 others were severely injured. The cause of the fire was never definitely determined but arson was suspected and possibly, sabotage. John and the other 21 members of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment who were among the casualties were interred with full military honours at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's



Mt. Pleasant Cemetery



John & his sister Anita



K of C Fire Memorial