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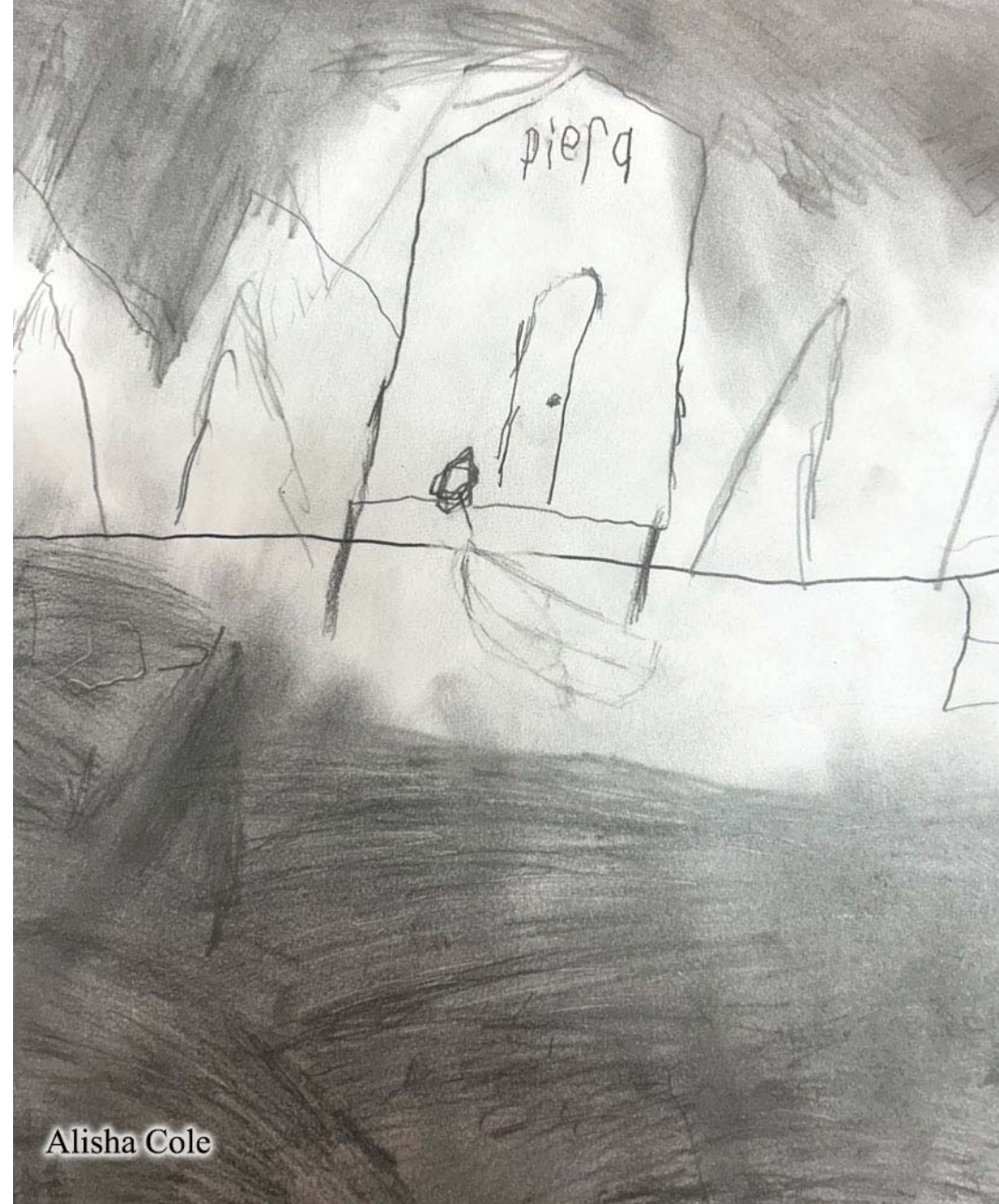
Your Local Paper

Trinity Bight Enterprise

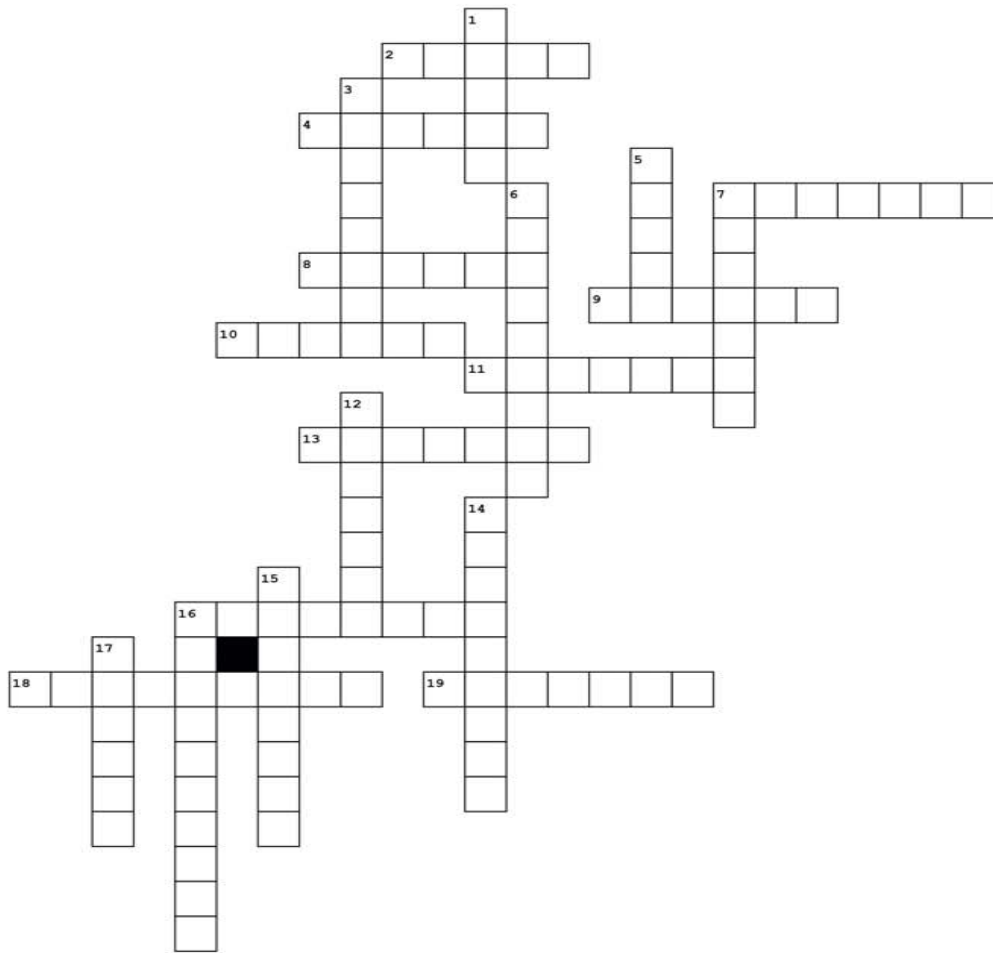
Issue #143

April 2025

A publication of Trinity Historical Society Inc.



Alisha Cole



Across

2. The scientific name for a turr.
4. Trinity's new town clerk.
7. He donated the land where the Catholic church is located.
8. The owner of the tinsmith shop across from the museum in the 1940s.
9. _____ Cove was the next community up Smith Sound from British Harbour.
10. David _____ supervised the building of the 2nd courthouse in 1811.
11. _____ Head is the next headland north of Skerwink on the Port Rexton side.
13. _____ can cause an iceberg to move upwind.
16. He bought the only house on The Nuddick in the 1970s.
18. _____ Lane runs along the southern boundary of St. Paul's churchyard.
19. _____ & Street inherited Joseph White's Trinity business in the early 1800s.

Down

1. The colour of the navigation light on the starboard side of a vessel.
3. The name for washed out to sea from a steep shoreline.
5. Who owned the shop near the railway station in Trinity in the 60s and 70s.
6. The name of the Trinity and area Lions Club.
7. The roof style of Ryan's Shop.
12. _____ Point is located between Tabin's Point and Walters's Point.
14. The course to steer from Bonaventure Head to Stone Island.
15. Tea was often sweetened with _____ before sugar was widely available.
16. _____ Hill runs from Bartlett's Electricals towards Trinity Loop.
17. The captain of the last sealing schooner to sail out of Trinity.

Service Schedule

April 6th – April 27th, 2025

April 6 th Fifth Sunday in Lent (Purple)	11:00 AM Christ Church – Port Rexton 7:00 PM The Good Shepherd – Dunfield	Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer
April 10 th - Thursday (Purple)	7:00 PM St. Clement's – Champneys West	Mid Week Lenten Service
April 13 th Palm Sunday (Red)	11:00 AM St. John The Evangelist – New Bonaventure 7:00 PM St. Clement's – Champney's West	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
April 14 th Holy Monday (Red)	7:00 PM St. Paul's - Trinity	The Seven Sorrows of The Virgin Mary
April 15 th Holy Tuesday (Red)	7:00 PM Christ Church – Port Rexton	Facing The Shadows A Tenebrae Drama
April 16 th Holy Wednesday (Red)	7:00 PM St. Matthew's - Trouty	The Sounds Of Easter
April 17 th Maundy Thursday (Red)	7:00 PM St. Clements – Champney's West	The Washing Of The Feet and Stripping Of The Altar
April 18 th Good Friday Altar Stripped	2:00 PM St. John The Evangelist – New Bonaventure	The Celebration Of The Lord's Passion
April 19 th Holy Saturday (White)	7:00 PM St. Andrew's – Trinity East	Renewal of Baptismal Vows
April 20 th Easter Sunday (White)	11:00 AM St. Paul's - Trinity	Parish Service Of Holy Eucharist
April 27 th Second Sunday of Easter (White)	11:00 AM St. Andrew's – Trinity East 7:00 PM St. Matthew's – Trouty	Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer



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Contact:

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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 2025 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 2024-2025 school calendar year; and
- be intending to return to school full-time in September 2025; or
- be graduating from Level III in June 2025 and planning to pursue an education at a post-secondary institution in September 2025.

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
Fax: (709) 464-3599
Email: 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 11, 2025

Trinity Historical Society

If you would like to place an ad in our May issue please contact programming@trinityhistoricalsociety.com or call 464-3599. Deadline for the May issue is April 25th with a mailout scheduled for April 30th.

Coldplate Sale

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Nestled in Newfoundland and Labrador's stunning landscapes, Random Passage is a living history experience. With a new website in the works, fresh vision, and deep passion for heritage, we're entering 2025 stronger than ever—join us!

Now Hiring for the 2025 Season:

Servers & Gift Shop Associates – The Heart of Hospitality

Welcome guests, serve home-baked treats, and help visitors find the perfect keepsake. If you're energetic, adaptable, and love creating a warm atmosphere, this role is for you!

**Pending Funding Approval*

Student Tour Guide – Adventure Ambassador

Gain hands-on experience in storytelling, craftsmanship, and heritage site upkeep. Assist with guided tours, garden maintenance, and traditional fence-making techniques while developing your public speaking skills.

**Pending Funding Approval*

Outdoor Maintenance Worker / Tour Guide – Keeper of the Land

Blend hands-on craftsmanship with storytelling. Maintain the site's rustic charm, develop gardens, demonstrate traditional techniques, and guide visitors through the history of Newfoundland.

Cook – The Culinary Artist

Create hearty, traditional Newfoundland meals using fresh, local ingredients. If you can bake a mean partridgeberry pie, even better!

Project Administrator / General Manager – The Operations Helm

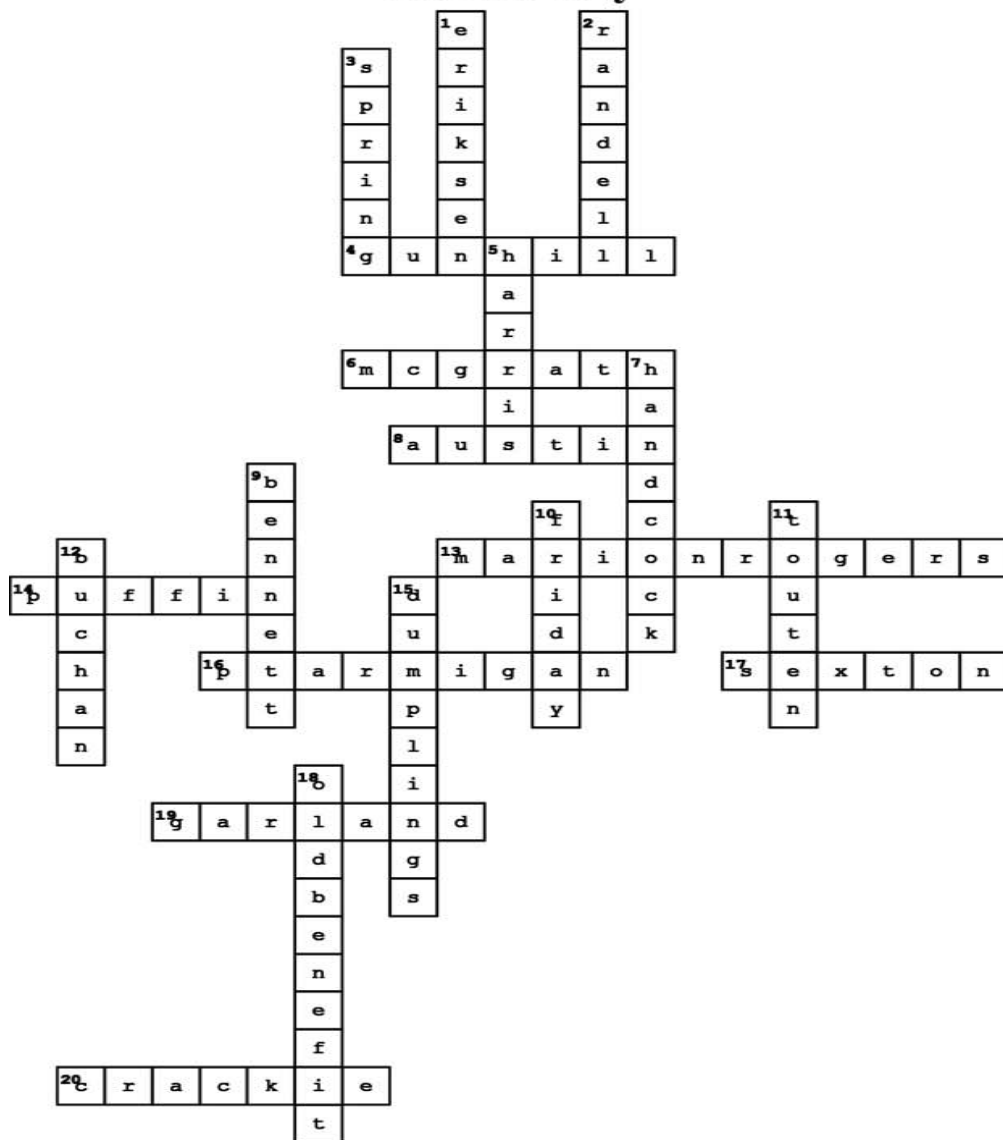
A year-round, part-time role combining project management with on-site operations. Work with funders, oversee projects, and help shape the future of Random Passage.

Ready for an unforgettable summer?

Apply today! Send your resume and a short note about why you'd make a great team member by

April 10, 2025 to dawne.marlow@eastlink.ca or call **709-464-2551** for more information.

March Key



Across

4. Where is "the bog" located in Trinity.
6. In "The Ryans and the Pittmans", Pittman bought the twenty-pound bed from _____.
8. First name of the owner of the garage located where the liquor store is today.
13. The schooner lost near Trinity lighthouse in 1938.
14. A hatchet-face is another name for a _____.
16. A NL partridge is a _____.
17. The Trinity native who wrote the ballad "The Loss of the Ella M Randolph".
19. The Trinity politician who became the first speaker of the house.
20. In "The Trinity Cake" folk song the dog is called a _____.

Down

1. The Norwegian engineer at the Maggoty Cove whale factory.
2. The Port Rexton son who was a British Navy commander in WW I.
3. _____ tides occur when the sun, moon, and earth are in line.
5. The doctor/surgeon who arrived in Trinity in 1747.
7. The author of "The Story of Trinity".
9. The VP of Bishop White school in the 1960s.
10. Which weekday was the last day of February 2025.
11. Bread dough fried in fat is a _____.
12. A Royal Navy captain who set up a signal system on Skerwink and Gun Hill in 1813.
15. Newfoundlanders also call doughboys _____.
18. The _____ club meets on Candlemas Day.



**PORT REXTON
RECREATION IS
STARTING A**

Summer Sports Program!

If you are interested in volunteering with the program, or have suggestions for the program please contact Nicole Duffett at 709-631-2829



Looking for space to host a party or event?

The Alvin F. Piercey Recreation Room and Cecil R. Piercey Memorial Park (building and rink facility) are available year round!

Rates available for half-day or full-day bookings.

Contact the Port Rexton Town Office to book either of these facilities.

Save the date!

Our annual Easter Breakfast will be on April 19th!

Stay tuned for more details on our Facebook page.



Guest Article - Chris O'Dea

Bosun's Persuader / Cosh

c. 1770

Impressment was alive and well "in the colonies"



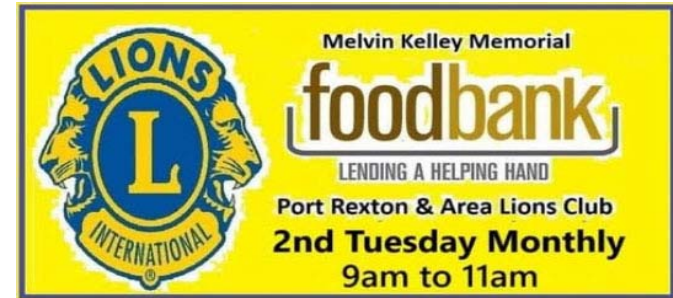
This Bosun's Persuader was discovered by Chris O'Dea in a lot at a local auction in October 2024. The lot was called Flotsam and Jetsam and contained misc bits of marine metal items and the device which is the focus of this article.

A large selection of marine related auction items came from the Estate of Dr. John Williams who passed away on Dec 19, 2022 in St. John's, NL. In his obituary it references his hobbies and one activity was collecting "all things military and naval". It is surmised that this item and all other naval and maritime artifacts consigned to auction, would have been found in NL by Dr. Williams.

This is a very unusual and brutal, unexpectedly sturdy weapon, made of twisted whale baleen and vegetal fibers woven around lead balls. This baton was for disciplinarian purposes; hitting lazy sailors that were slacking from their work, and for more cruel impressment practices. At both tips are knobs formed by hefty pear shape lead balls, that are covered with needle hitched fibers. The lead ball on the "handle end" is fully covered and the lead ball on the "weapon" end is half covered. At the base of each knob are twisted cords and at the center of the baleen to hold all intact. This piece seems to be well used and fairly well preserved and attests to the great skill and care put into constructing this weapon. The size is 11.5 inches in length.

New Lions Members Recruitment Port Rexton and Area Lions Club

Membership is fulfilling and has its own rewards. It requires little of your time and efforts, nor money. It only takes the courage and willingness to help your community, friends and families. With a meeting held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, come in and see if it is something you would be interested in joining. We want to welcome and thank every person who commits to volunteering.



Seriously, you don't need to be needy to need a little food. Because of the overwhelming amount of support and donations we have received, the abundance of food will go to waste if not used. Please do not feel bad, ashamed, or guilty or that we could run out before someone really needs it. It is here and if you need a little help on a full or part time basis or even just now and then- you only need to make one phone call to one of three members;

Bill Long 464-3279

Bill Hookey 464-3883

Barry Pearce 464-7154 or 461-3334





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The bosun or boatswain was a petty officer and supervisor of the deck crew; assigning tasks, overseeing compliance, and acting disciplinarian, doling out whacks and angry words to sluggish workers to keep them on their toes. The boson's cosh, fittingly known as a "starter" or "persuader," in conjunction with harsher floggings, were used to maintain order and fast paced work. When ashore, the cosh was carried by press-gangs to forcibly take men back to the ships to serve as sailors. Kidnapping sailors was known as "impressment", which was commonly practiced by English crews and the Georgian Royal Navy and sanctioned by British courts. People liable to impressment were "eligible men of seafaring habits between the ages of 18 and 55 years." Coshes intimidated and beat the unwilling men back to the ships, and in more dramatic instances, the cosh knocked the men unconscious to be carried back to the boat; waking up far out at sea with no means of escape. By the mid-19th century, a system of fixed terms gave the Royal Navy enough recruits that press-gangs were no longer necessary, and fortunately brutal beatings aboard ships were much less common as the public view of corporal punishment became much more negative.

Press gangs were well known for the physical force they used in recruiting men into the Royal Navy during the 17th and 18th centuries. It was, however, a practice which Parliament had first sanctioned several centuries earlier. The Crown claimed a permanent right to seize men of seafaring experience for the Royal Navy, and the practice was at various times given parliamentary authority. Impressment was vigorously enforced during the naval wars of the 18th century by Acts passed in 1703, 1705, 1740 and 1779. The men pressed into service were usually sailors in the merchant fleets but might just as often be ordinary apprentices and labourers. During the wars with France from 1793 to 1815, an impress service operated in British coastal towns. Although further laws passed in 1835 upheld the power to impress, in practice it fell into disuse after 1815.

It is also important to highlight that impressment was alive and well in Newfoundland during the above referenced wars with France and the discovery of this Bosun's Cosh in Newfoundland adds to the story in that this device was most likely used locally as a weapon of impressment.

ON 10 MARCH 1794, HMS *Boston* was anchored at Portsmouth, the Royal Navy's main base in southern England, getting ready for its Atlantic voyage to Newfoundland. Sitting astern in his cabin was Captain J.N. Morris, writing an urgent letter to Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty. Scheduled to sail the following week, Morris requested a quick officer exchange: Lieutenant John Edwards of the *Boston* in return for Richard Lawry of HMS *Comet*. The swap was initiated by Edwards and Lawry, not their captains, and for reasons that were not recorded by the Navy. Lawry was a young officer, having only received his Admiralty commission as a lieutenant in October 1793. In terms of seniority, he now became the second lieutenant of the *Boston*, while Robert Alexander Kerr, previously third in command, received an unexpected promotion to first lieutenant. Kerr attained the rank of captain during the War of 1812 and was later distinguished as a Companion of the Bath. Lawry, on the other hand, was not destined to climb up the ranks of the Royal Navy. Seven months after the exchange, in October 1794, he and Kerr led a press gang ashore in St. John's that culminated in a vicious attack by a local crowd. Several of their comrades were left bloody and scrambling for safety, while Lawry remained motionless, beaten to death in the streets. The government's reaction was swift and strong. Marines rounded up dozens of suspects, two men were tried and condemned to death by the Supreme Court, and the criminals, Two Irishmen by the name of Garrett Farrell and Richard Power, were tried for his murder and a fifty pound bounty was placed on the head of another Irishman, William Burrows who had evaded arrest and who became the chief suspect in the murder of Lawry. D'Ewes Coke, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and a panel of local jurors sealed the fate of Farrell and Power on Oct 30, 1794 and condemned both to death, ordering the sheriff to execute them by hanging on Oct 31, 1794. Burrows was never brought to justice.

This is the story of one of the most serious crimes in Newfoundland history. It is an ironic tragedy because Lawry personally requested the North Atlantic mission that led to his death. The narrative begins with the *Boston's* daily routine in October 1794: loading the warship with victuals, Morris preparing to sail with the Iberian convoy, and the movements of the press gang that resulted in Lawry's murder. It continues with the interrogation of the suspects and their criminal trial. The state executions and military funeral that followed were theatrical events designed to reinforce the power and legitimacy of the Royal Navy. Lawry's murder was clearly an extraordinary event, but it was not extraordinary for the reason historians have traditionally assumed. It was exceptional in the sense that it was the only time press gangs sparked a large-scale demonstration in Newfoundland, not because they were illegal or non-existent there, or because the colony was a safe haven from naval recruitment. Press gangs operated in Newfoundland with the statutory backing of the British Parliament, and were an occupational hazard there throughout the Napoleonic Wars. In terms of composition and behaviour, the *Boston's* press gang was much the same as other recruiting parties in this period. Kerr and Lawry followed legal-customary manning parameters that had been forged locally between naval commanders and colonial elites. Subsequent press gangs followed the same procedures; in this way the Navy saved face after the attack, and prevented impressment from sparking much violence in the future. Viewed through the lens of one case study, this is the first serious analysis of press gangs in Newfoundland. Admiralty records have been used to quantify recruitment in Newfoundland, demonstrating that thousands of men entered the Navy there. There is also a panoramic description of impressment and the cod fishery in the North Atlantic world, which challenges the argument that the Newfoundland trade was not a productive nursery for seamen. The essay begins with Lawry's homicide in 1794 and traces its impact on British naval impressment in Newfoundland to 1815.

The diaries of Benjamin and Isaac Lester, merchants in the Poole-Trinity, Newfoundland trade, are littered with references to them. The worst time for impressment was the spring. Merchants spent considerable time and money organizing labour and fitting out vessels for the fishing season, and to have men pressed from convoys at Plymouth or Spithead spelled delays and losses. For example, the Lesters' brig *Hope* had just arrived from London in 1793, and was being loaded for a convoy when her seamen were pressed. The master set out to recruit more men but met with little success. The *Hope* could not clear Poole until she was manned. In 1799 they heard from Thomas Gaylor, one of the Lesters' former ship captains and a contact in the Newfoundland trade, who reported that his men had been pressed in the West Country. Merchants were sometimes successful in petitioning for the release of pressed men, as technically outgoing vessels were exempt from the Navy. For instance, in the spring of 1779, Governor Richard Edwards received word from Dartmouth and Poole that men had been pressed from the Newfoundland convoy assembling at Spithead. He ordered their immediate release.

In addition to impressment of Newfoundlanders referenced above, HMS Bonetta pressed 9 in Trinity in 1793, HMS Shark pressed 10 in Fogo in 1795, HMS Camilla pressed 19 in Placentia in 1803 and 42 were taken on the Avalon on a single fortnight. So it was thought to be a widespread activity, one which Lester referred to as a conventional view of Newfoundland as "Nursery for Seamen" at the time that the British Navy looked to the colonies to recruit from the population at a time of war.

A link to a most comprehensive article on impressment in Newfoundland, by Keith Mercer, can be found here: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/NFLDS/article/view/10153/10456>



HOP ON OVER TO THE
Grade 4/5 CAKE WALK
and
Easter
Bake Sale
April 7 at 6pm
TO PURCHASE SWEET TREATS AND
HAVE SOME FUN!
Bishop White School Gymnasium
Port Rexton, NL
Fundraiser for Grade 4/5 End of
Year Trip to St. John's

Note of Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone during Sterling Laite's time in the hospital in Clarendville, The Lion's Manor Nursing Home in Placentia and his passing. The staff at the Lion's Manor were amazing and made his 15 month stay wonderful. To my family for their support during this difficult time, to everyone who took the time to send cards or messages, your kindness didn't go unnoticed.

Sincerely,
Darlene and family
The Laite Family





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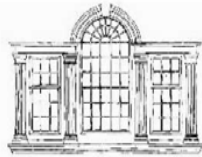
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Room for Community Rental

Trinity Historical Society has a space available at Lester-Garland House for hosting meetings and workshops between November 1st and May 31st.

The room measures 19' x 19' and can be set up for 16-20 people depending on the layout required of the room.

Daily rental rate of \$100.00 or half day \$50.00

If you wish to book the space or have any questions please contact us at ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com or (709) 464-3599.

Office Space for Short or Long Term Rental

Are you looking for an office space for either a daily, weekly or monthly basis or maybe a heated storage space for the winter month's. If so then we may have something exactly what you're looking for at Lester-Garland House.

We have a room that measures 8 ft x 18 ft. Rental rate is \$600.00/mth with electrical included.

For daily, weekly and storage rates please contact us.

If interested in viewing the space please contact us –
ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com or (709) 464-3599.



Let's close with a song called "The Press Gang"

As I walked out on London Street
A press gang there I chanced to meet
They asked me if I'd join the fleet
On board of a man-o-war, boys

Come brother shipmates tell to me
What kind of treatment they give you
That I may know before I go
On board of a man-o-war, boys

When I got there to my surprise
All they had told me was shocking lies
There was a row and a bloody old row
On board of a man-o-war, boys

The first thing they done they took me in hand
They lashed me with a 'tar of a strand'
They flogged me till I could not stand
On board of a man-o-war, boys

Now I was married and me wife's name was Grace
'Twas she that led me to shocking disgrace
It's oft I'd curse her ugly face
On board of a man-o-war, boys

When next I get may foot on shore
To see them London girls once more
I'll never go to sea no more
On board of a man-o-war, boys

Questions remain and stir the imagination about this piece of "Flotsam and Jetsam" as referenced at the start of this article.

Where was it made?

Was it made in the mid 1700's?

To whom was it given?

Was it used by press gangs operating in St. John's or rural NL?

Could it possibly be connected to the press gang in St. John's in 1794 when Richard Lawry was bludgeoned to death, and could he possibly have been bludgeoned by his own weapon of impressment?

Details of its origin and location of use may never be known, but one hopes it also stirs the reader's imagination

Chris O'Dea



Trinity Historical Society Newsletter, Issue 50

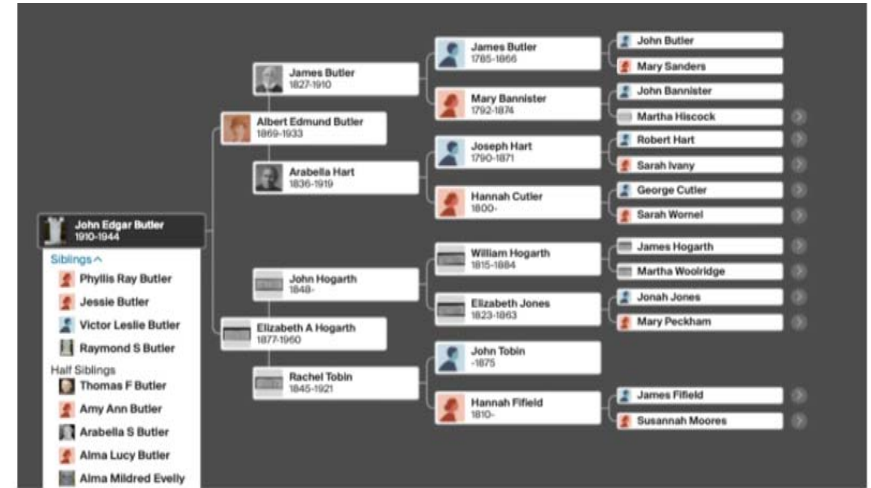
March 2025

R. Coope, J. Morris, Eds.

Trinity Historical Society (THS) is pleased to announce that The Aldermen have volunteered to perform a fundraiser for THS at Rocky's Place on August 2nd. Please see our website for details. We would like to thank Corey Jones for allowing us to use Rocky's free of charge for this event.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we present the story of the twelfth of the men who are remembered on the War Monument in Port Rexton.

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



Family Tree

John joined the Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit at the beginning of World War II and traveled to Scotland on-board SS Chrobry in the winter of 1940. He later transferred to the Royal Navy and served as an Ordinary Seaman on HMBY Minesweeper 2154. He was killed during a German air raid on Boulogne, France and is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.



John Edgar Butler



John, the son of Albert Edmund Butler and Elizabeth Alberta Hogarth, was born at Port Rexton on January 31st, 1910. He died on October 3rd, 1944. He was 34.



HM British Yard Minesweeper



Death location



Gravestone