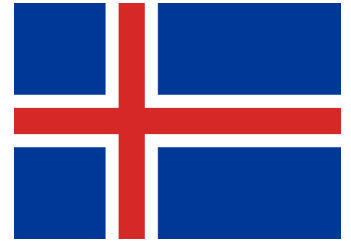


Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

2023 Newsletter



November, 2023

novascotiaicelanders.ca

It is hard to believe that it has been 25 years since the Icelandic Society of Nova Scotia was founded. On a sunny afternoon in July 1998, a small group of people, Marshall Burgess, Dave Dwyer, Harley and Bev Redden, and Glenda Burrows gathered at my mother, Dolly Belmore's family home in Caribou Gold Mines where she was living. Marshall, our long-time executive member is of Icelandic descent. His family, the Huskison's, settled briefly in Markland before moving on to Lockport, Nova Scotia where the families remain to this day. Marshall had done extensive research on the Icelanders of Nova Scotia and was familiar with the history. Dolly, now in her 80's, recalled her young days as a teacher in nearby Caribou Gold Mines in the 30's, taking her students to Markland to see the fallen remains of the old log cabins. Her curiosity continued as years went by. Who were these people, where did they go, why was there a sudden exodus and why didn't anyone in the village know their story? She was determined to find out. Little did she know that it would be sixty years later before she would begin to uncover the mystery of Markland.

On the agenda of the first meeting was how we would celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the Vikings' arrival in North America and recognize the Icelanders who had spent 7 years in Markland trying to eke out a living there. Dave Dwyer, who was on the Millennial committee for the year 2000, knew how we could obtain funding through a millennial grant. Everyone had a keen interest in reviving the history of this almost forgotten settlement and so our journey began.

Today at Markland you will find a memorial cairn at the entrance with a large map of the settlement, brochures, guest book, and interpretive signage for hikers. Along the Fairbanks Lake Road through the settlement, the family lots are marked with farm names both in Icelandic and English, some with new interpretive signage installed in May 2023. On lot 3, the log cabin replica commemorates the first Icelandic child born in Markland in the fall of 1875.

Our plans for the upcoming year include the building of a gazebo at the entrance, more interpretive signage and improving the lots to make them more accessible.

All this work over the years has been done solely by our members and volunteers, with assistance on all projects from the HRM Grants Committee, to whom we are very grateful. We are also grateful to our members who continue to support us with memberships and donations.

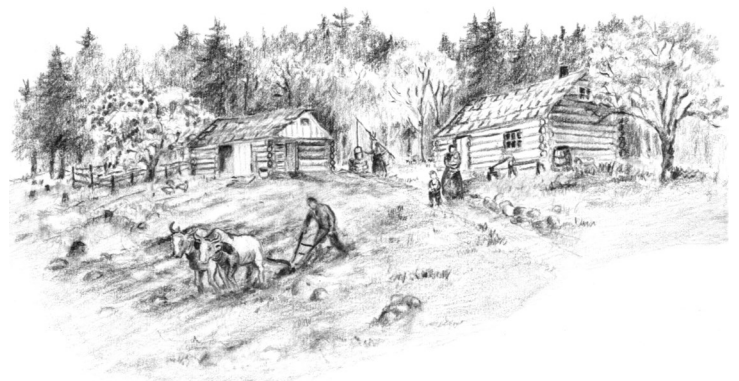
This year we are increasing the single membership fee to \$15.00. Other fees will remain the same.

Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in membership numbers in the past few years. We would be pleased if you could encourage your family members to join.

Please see attached membership form and stamped envelope for renewing and returning fees. Membership and fees can also be renewed by e-transfer to

novascotiaicelanders@gmail.com

We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past 25 years and we thank you for your ongoing support in bringing the story of Markland to life.



Glenda Burrows

ICELANDIC MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 3, 2023

LEGION HALL, UPPER MUSQUODOBIT

1. Attendance: 10 people.

2. Welcome: Glenda Burrows, President, welcomed the guests.

3. Minutes of April 14, 2019. Copies were distributed. Approved by Ken Burrows/Betty Belmore.

4. Minutes of 2020. /2021. Read and approved. Bev Redden /Don Parker.

5. Report from the Chair.

- New interpretive signs have been installed.

- Ideas were discussed for the next project. Build a kiosk at the cairn site. Bev Redden said they have a good sample of one at Taylors Head Beach. The panels are already done. Ken Burrows said he would do a mockup design. \$5,000, HRM Community grant application.

- Facebook page is now linked to the website.

- Hurricane brought down lots of trees. Walkways cleaned up. Gravel put on road. Bridges put in. Grass mowing at the monument. Thanks to Harley and Bev Redden, Wayne Scott and others for doing this work.

6. Treasurers Report: Bonnie Price

- Income: \$820 membership; \$500 donations; \$170 for books; \$2500 community grant; refund on cancelled insurance.

- Expenses: \$744 total.

- Balance \$3,838. Approved by Ken Burrows/Wayne Scott.

7. Membership Report: Bonnie Price. Bonnie reported that our paid membership is down.

- 13 families; 21 single; 21 life; 2 honorary; Total of 57.

- Moved that the Single membership fee be increased from \$10 to \$15, Approved Marshall Burgess/Bev Redden.

- Check to see about Borga Jakobson.

8. Markland Walk: Saturday September 30. 10 o'clock at Cairn.

9. Election of Officers: Glenda Burrows - President; Marshall Burgess - Vice President; Treasurer / membership - Bonnie Price; Members at Large: Ken Burrows; Wayne Scott; Myra Jerome.

10. Next AGM: Jay Lalonde is a PhD Candidate, Department of History at the University of New Brunswick. He is doing his thesis on the Icelandic Settlers in Atlantic Canada. It was suggested that he be invited to be the guest speaker at our next AGM.

TWENTY FIVE YEAR TIMELINE 1998-2023

1. 1998. Society incorporated on July 29, 1998. Dolly Belmore elected first Chair.
2. 1999. Dave Dwyer and Rex Tasker produce video “Markland in Nova Scotia”, Kimberly-Clark grants a 10-year lease to the Society to erect a memorial cairn. Renewed in 2010.
3. 2000. Society raised \$30,000 (\$10,000 HRM; \$10,000 Millennium Fund; \$6,000 Iceland) to erect memorial cairn. August 6th, 2000, cairn dedicated in Markland. August 7th in Lockeport President Olafur Grimsson visits Nova Scotia and meets the Society at the Hotel Nova Scotian. Pall Steffanson, editor of Iceland Review, visits Markland.
4. 2001. Fridur Oalbsdottir, costume expert from Iceland, visited Nova Scotia. Borga Jakobson publishes “Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills”. Hallveig Thorlacius from Iceland puts on 3 puppet shows.
5. 2002. Ken Burrows produces the CD “The Story of Markland”, narrated by Bill Stevenson, vocals by Betty Belmore.
6. 2003. Society has its first International Trails Day walk through Markland. Kathy Didkowsky looks after this annual event. Dr. Andres Arnalds, soil conservationist from Iceland, addresses the Society.
7. 2004. Dr. Brigitta Wallace, Viking expert, addresses the Society.
8. 2005. Peter Martin, Camden Maine, addresses the Society on the location of Hop in Newfoundland.
9. 2006. Markus Antonsson, Icelandic Ambassador, addresses the Society.
10. 2007. Prime Minister Geir Haarde visits Markland. Bonnie Price designs Society pin.

11. 2008. Society celebrates 10 years at Bev and Harley Reddens cabin. Dolly Belmore passes away, and Marshall Burgess becomes chair.
12. 2009. Honorary Consul Robert Mellish addresses the Society. Jonas Thor brought 46 senior citizens to Nova Scotia. They visited Markland. Borga Jakobson published “The Young Icelander” first written by Johann Bjarnason in 1899, 1902 and 1903 as Eirikur Hansson.
13. 2010. Anne Bishop and Jan Mullin from Kentville spoke to the Society about breeding Icelandic sheep.
14. 2011. Lawyer Myra Jerome spoke to the Society about her trip to Greenland. Society gets a Crown lease for 1 ha of land to erect a log cabin.
15. 2012. Colin Campbell, photographer, shows his pictures of Iceland. Henry Decker spoke to the Society about building log cabins.
16. 2013. Glenda Burrows becomes chair.
17. 2014. Log cabin completed. Ruth Nielsen and Holly Puppe from North Dakota attended the dedication ceremony. Bonnie Price designed the historical plaque.
18. 2015. DVD documentary, written and produced by Bonnie Price and Glenda Burrows called “The Log Cabin in Markland” was shown.
19. 2016. Diane Smith and Dale Johnson gave a presentation on their family who came from Markland. Jonas Thor brought 26 medical workers from Iceland.
20. 2017. Dr. Brigitta Wallace, Viking expert, gave a talk to the Society. Grand Forks INL convention. Marshall

Burgess, Bonnie Price and Glenda Burrows give presentation on the 'Log Cabin in Markland'.

21. 2018. Society celebrates 20th anniversary. New wallboards were presented at the AGM outlining the many projects, activities and events over the years.

22. 2019. Donna and Olive Nelson from Markerville, Alberta, visit Markland. John Higgins was guest speaker at AGM. His relative built the original log cabins for the Icelanders

23. 2020. Pandemic. Updated website; novascotiaicelanders.ca.

24. 2021. Pandemic. \$2500 Community Historic Grant from HRM. Used to make new interpretative signs.

25. 2022. Pandemic. Celebrate 25 years in 2023. AGM held on June 3, 2023.



VISIT BY JAY LALONDE TO MARKLAND

On Saturday, October 21 the Icelandic Society (Glenda Burrows, Bonnie Price, Marshall Burgess, Wayne Scott, Harley and Bev Redden), met with Jay Lalonde, PhD Candidate, Department of History, University of New Brunswick. Jay is researching Icelandic settlement in Nova Scotia for a dissertation on the development of Atlantic Canada's immigration policy and has so far traced the journeys of several settlers from their homes in Iceland via the Markland settlement and eventually to North Dakota.

We met at the memorial cairn at 10 am. New interpretative signs have been erected there as well as on the old Icelandic farms and other sites. These were put up by Wayne Scott, Ken Burrows Harley Redden and Leonard Watson. As we made our way through the settlement, there were stops made at the log cabin (lot 3) and several of the other sites of the Icelandic settlers' homes. There were lots of historical facts and stories to be told with each one. Society Member Wayne Scott's told of his mother's birth at Iceland House where first settlers stayed until their cabins were built. Our final destination was lot 23, Harley and Bev Redden's cabin. We were greeted by a warm fire and a hearty lunch. The stories continued there until mid afternoon with everyone reluctant to leave. It was supposed to rain all day, but the sun came out. A good sign.

We are hoping Jay will come to our Annual General Meeting and give a presentation on his research to date. If your descendants settled in Nova Scotia for any period of time, any information and especially photographs will be most appreciated.

You can contact Jay by e-mailing jay.lalonde@unb.ca or by writing to 9529 Highway 3, Mahone Bay, NS, B0J 2E0, Canada.

J. Marshall Burgess KC



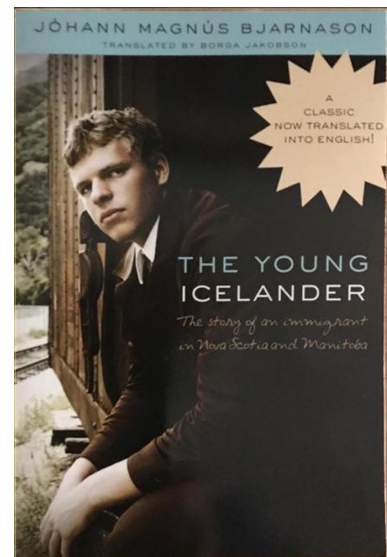
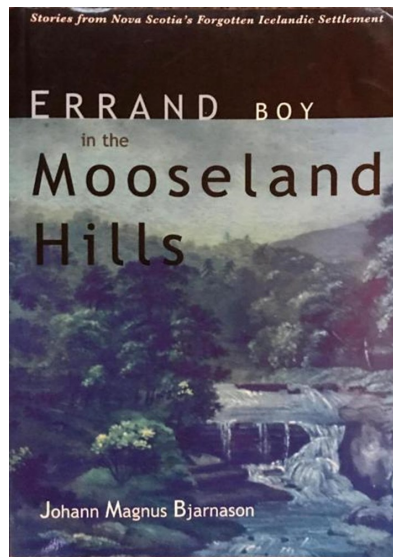
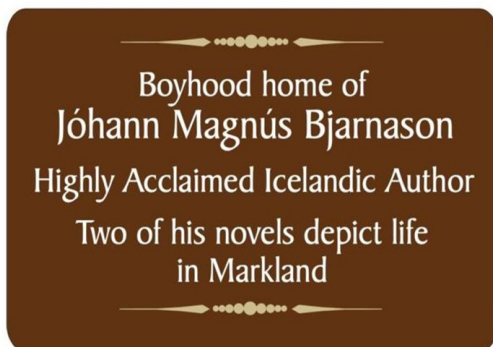
TRIBUTE TO BORGA JAKOBSON

Borga Jakobson, of Winnipeg, Manitoba passed away at the age of 94 on November 19, 2022. Borga was a member of The Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia. Borga and her husband, Bodvar Bjarki raised 7 children. She was very active in the Icelandic community and maintained strong connections with her Icelandic heritage, Icelandic being her first language. She was described by a friend as being loving, giving, humble, intelligent and humorous. She published and translated books, stories, poetry, and other articles. In 2001 Borga translated Johann Magnus Bjarnason's Icelandic stories in a book titled "Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills". Johann lived on Lot 15 of the Markland settlement in 1878 (age 12) with his family. She translated the 1878-79 census into English listing all the Icelanders living in Markland and Lockeport. She then gave the Society the history of each family.

In 2009 Borga translated Bjarnason's "Eirikur Hansson" (1899, 1901 1902) in a book titled "The Young Icelander", The Society was introduced to Borga when she came to Nova Scotia for the book launching at Lot 15 with publishing company, Formac Publishing. Her two granddaughters accompanied her. Borga, at age 82 walked up the trail with members, guests and representatives of Formac to the homestead site of Magnus Bjarnason. She spoke of the many hours she spent reading about life in Markland and the stories her father, who was a student of Bjarnason, had told her when she was younger. She had envisioned Markland as she wrote about it and imagined the tall birch trees by the home they had named 'White Birch Cottage'.

After reading a passage from "The Young Icelander", Borga unveiled a memorial plaque to Bjarnason, reading both in English and Icelandic. It was a very moving experience for everyone. Our Society gives Borga grateful thanks for all of her work.

J. Marshall Burgess, KC



Borga Jakobson at homestead site of Johann Magnus Bjarnason, June 5, 2010



Borga Jakobson reading passage from 'The Young Icelander'

L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS

On August 31, 2023, my daughter, granddaughter and I took a 7-day trip to Newfoundland getting the ferry in North Sydney, NS. One of the spots we wanted to see was L'Anse aux Meadows.

We had a beautiful day to travel to the site and to enjoy it. From the parking lot, you are greeted with a replica of the people who first established the encampment standing on the hilltop. These adventurers came from Greenland, probably not knowing what to expect when they landed.

After climbing a hill, you are welcomed at an interesting interpretive centre filled with history and crafts. After spending some time inside the centre, we went outside to the boardwalk that takes you to the site itself, including the mud huts which have been set up to resemble what the settlers had.

We were met by an interesting couple who explained how and what the settlers did on this site. Although dark inside, we could see enough to see how their daily life was carried on, with the men in one end of the hut and the women on the other.

After we walked around the site, we hiked up to the bronze replicas and looked out over the site. We had sunshine and a beautiful day, but the early settlers must have had numerous days of fog and cold weather to deal with being as far north as this area is.

This is certainly a worthwhile site to visit when in Newfoundland along with many others, well worth the numerous miles to get there.

Beverley Redden





Robert 'Bob' Owen Fulton, age 77 of Middle Musquodoboit passed away suddenly at his home on October 29, 2023. Born in Halifax, Robert was a son of the late George and Dorothy (Taylor) Fulton. Robert was the last remaining member of his immediate family. He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Robin Joyce Fulton. Robert and Robin have been supporters and lifetime members of the Society for many years. Robert is a direct descendant of Sigríður Þorsteynsdóttir, his great grandmother on his mother's side. Sigríður came to Markland in August, 1878 at age 16 with her aunt, Elín Stefánsdóttir, Elin's five children, her sister and nephew.

Ólafur Þorsteinsson, Elin's husband had arrived in 1877 and spent that winter in Lockeport. After the family's arrival they settled on Lot 18, Arnes, in Markland where it is said that Olafur built a fine house. The family moved to Pembina, North Dakota in 1881, however Sigríður stayed in Nova Scotia.

She married Porter Taylor from Chaswood in 1880. They raised 11 children there.

The Society is grateful for Robert's support over the years and extend our deepest sympathy to the family.



Robert's Great Grandparents: Sigríður and Porter Taylor

NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS





Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

Annual Financial Statement

Fiscal Period Ending Dec.31, 2022

Opening Balance, Jan.1, 2022 **190.00**

Income:

Memberships	820.00
Donations	525.00
Sales, Books, DVD, CD	170.00
Insurance Refund	377.00
Community Grant	2,500.00

Total Income **4,392.00**

Expenses:

Bank account Fees	168.00
Newsletters, Postage	298.00
Brochures, labels	151.00
Icelandic books printing	96.00
Joint Stock Registry	31.00

Total Expenses **744.00**

Closing Balance Dec.31, 2022 **3,838.00**

Glenda Burrows, Chair

Bonnie Price, Treasurer



Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

Membership Application and Renewal Form November 2023

Name _____

Phone: () _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Postal / Zip Code _____

Single Membership \$15

Family Names: _____

Family Membership \$20

Corporate Membership \$50

Membership Renewal

Please make cheque payable to:

Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia
Bonnie Price, Treasurer
219 Old Post Road, Smiths Cove
Digby, NS B0S 1S0
bon.price@eastlink.ca

e- Transfers (Canadian residents) novascotiaicelanders@gmail.com

The Society continues to research family histories in Markland. If you have any articles, stories, photographs or artifacts, the Society would like to hear from you.

Direct descendent of a Markland family: _____

(Family name)

I have information or photos to share with the Society

I would like to make a donation to the Society (A charitable receipt will be issued.)



Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

Publication Order Form

Title/Author	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Markland Remembrance of the Years 1875 – 1881 by: Guðbrandur Erlendsson	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills by Magnús Bjarnason translated by Borga Jakobson	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Story of Markland on CD Story by: Ken Burrows, Narration and music by: Bill Stevenson	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Log Cabin at Markland on DVD 32 minute documentary on the story of the Icelandic pioneers of Markland and the building of the log cabin in the old settlement.	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Young Iclander by: Jöðhann Magnus Bjarnason. Translated by Borga Jakobson from <i>Erikur Hansson: A Novel from Nova Scotia</i>	\$20.00

Shipping costs: Will be added at time of purchase

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code/Zip: _____

Email: _____

To order: novascotiaicelanders@gmail.com or mail to:

Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia
C/o J. Marshall Burgess
6296 Willow St.
Halifax, NS B3L 1N9

Executive Members of the Icelandic Memorial Society

Glenda Burrows - Chair
1 Pine Oak Drive
Wellington, NS B2T 1J4
glendaburrows@eastlink.ca

J. Marshall Burgess, KC – Vice Chair / Secretary
6296 Willow Street
Halifax, NS B3L 1N9
marshallburgess@ns.sympatico.ca

Bonnie Price – Treasurer/Membership Chair
219 Old Post Rd E.
Smith Cove, NS B0S 1S0
bon.price@eastlink.ca

Members at Large
Wayne Scott
Ken Burrows
Myra Jerome
Phyllis Parker



Icelandic Society Membership 2022

Family 13 Single 21

Lifetime 21 Corporate 0

Honorary 2

Total Membership 57



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