THE 1914 SEALING DISASTERS
SELECT MATERIALS
IN THE
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR COLLECTION
ST. JOHN’S PUBLIC LIBRARIES

COMPILED BY
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2014
Introduction and Index

The week of March 29-April 4, 1914 was a tragic week for sealers of the country and their families. On two separate ships, the *SS Newfoundland and the SS Southern Cross*, sealers risked their lives to catch seals.

The *SS Southern Cross* sank on March 31 or April 1 losing all hands on board – 172 men.

The sealers aboard the *SS Newfoundland* were ordered over the side to make their way to the *SS Stephano*. Of the 166 men who took to the ice, 32 men turned back in the harsh weather conditions and 132 trekked four hours to reach the *SS Stephano*. They were given a meal and then ordered to take to the ice, catch 1500 seals and return to the *SS Newfoundland*. A blinding storm arose and the men spent several days trying to survive. 66 men died and many of the survivors lost limbs to frostbite.

The government Sealing Inquiry in 1915 concluded that no charges were laid but the commission recommended that all sealing vessels carry wireless sets, barometers, and thermometers, and that ship owners be held accountable for any injuries or deaths sustained by their crews. In 1916, the government passed legislation prohibiting sealers from being on the ice after dark and requiring all sealing ships to carry wireless equipment and flares.

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Books – Most of these books will have a chapter or multiple pages devoted to the disasters.

Badcock, T. C. *Captain Kean's Secret*. St. John's, 2013. 971.8 B14 (Circ).


Carroll, Michael. *The Seal And Herring Fisheries Of Newfoundland : Together With A Condensed History Of The Island*. Montreal, 1873. 639.2 C23 (Folder NL).


**Books – Most of these books will have a chapter or multiple pages devoted to the disasters.**


England, George Allan. *Vikings of the Ice*. 639.29 EN3 (Circ.) Available as an audiobook and as an online eBook.


Harrington, Michael. *Goin’ To The Ice: Offbeat History Of The Newfoundland Sealfishery*. St. John's, 1986. 639.29 H23 (Circ.)


Murphy, James. *The Old Sealing Days: A Project of the Newfoundland Archives*. St. John's, 1971. 639.29 PAMP.N (Conserv Room).
Books – Most of these books will have a chapter or multiple pages devoted to the disasters.


**Media: DVD’s, Videos and Kits.**

**Cod, Seals And Survivors.** [DVD] {Publication Place Unknown, 2007]. NL DVD Vault 639.2 C64.


**I Just Didn’t Want To Die : The 1914 Newfoundland Sealing Disaster** [DVD]. NL DVD 639.29 IJ8.

National Film Board – I Just Didn’t Want to Die

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcQDFgghAQY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcQDFgghAQY) (Part One)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nvdSLr8vNc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nvdSLr8vNc) (Part Two)

**The Viking.** [DVD]. English Harbour East, N.L., 1931. NL DVD 639.29 V69
Media: DVD’s, Videos and Kits.


Multimedia Kit:


Newspaper Coverage

Newspaper articles were so extensive in the days, weeks and months that followed that we won’t list them. Also check the papers for coverage during the Commission of Inquiry during 1915.

Daily News March 27, 1914 onwards.

Evening Herald April 1, 1914 onwards

Evening Telegram March 27, 1914 onwards.

Fisherman’s Advocate/Evening Advocate April 1, 1914 onwards

St. John’s Daily Star (Covered the Sealing Commission in 1915.)

Western Star April 1, 1914 onwards.
Periodical Articles – Many of these articles can be found in our vertical files on the ships and sealing disaster. The first section of articles is about the SS Newfoundland and the second section is about the SS Southern Cross.

Section 1: SS Newfoundland Disaster

Newfoundland Sealers
**London Illustrated News** 1914, April 11 vol 144 p. 586-89

Newfoundland, S.S.

Sealing Disaster: Newfoundland petition for Captain Kean’s Arrest
Mail & Advocate 1915, Mar 8
**Clipping filed in PAMP Box N3G**

Sealing tragedy
**Newfoundland Quarterly** 1914 April 1914 vol. 13(4) p.23

St. John Ambulance Brigade Newfoundland disaster
**Newfoundland Quarterly** 1914 July vol. 14(1) p.4-6

Worst coastal marine disaster involving a Newfoundland Ship
**Atlantic Guardian** 1950 August vol. 7(8) p. 60

Brown, Cassie
Death march. [S.S. Newfoundland disaster]

Collins, Calvin
Newfoundland Disaster of 1914: interview with Cecil Mouland
**Newfoundland Quarterly** 1980 Summer v.76(2) p.9-11
Periodical Articles – Many of these articles can be found in our vertical files on the ships and sealing disaster. The first section of articles is about the SS Newfoundland and the second section is about the SS Southern Cross.

Section 1: SS Newfoundland Disaster

Dalton, Marie
Nfld Sealing Disaster
**Newfoundland Herald** 2006, Feb 19-25: p. 94

Hanrahan, Maura
Day of Mourning: Part 2 Disaster Spring of 1914

Harrington, Michael
Spring of Newfoundland 1914 sealing disaster
**Macleans** 1961 Jan 28, vol 74(2) p. 14-17, 46-48

Harrington, Michael
Tragedy on the ice[re 1914 Newfoundland Disaster]
**Macleans** 2000 Nov 27, vol. 113(48) p.76-78.

MacLeod, Malcolm
Disaster Documents 1914: the official Canadian reponse
**Newfoundland Quarterly** 1981 Summer Fall v. 77(2-3) p. 11-12.

Parsons, Alex A.
The Newfoundland tragedy and the loss of the Southern Cross with passing references to other notable sealing disasters.
Periodical Articles – Section 1 is about the SS Newfoundland and Section 2 is about the SS Southern Cross.

Section 1: SS Newfoundland Disaster

Payne, Hedley
A Survivor’s memories of the ordeal that changed his life
Macleans Jan 28, 1961 vol 74(2) p.46.

Porter, Helen
The Most terrible Event in Newfoundland and Labrador Sealing
Saturday Night 1973 Jan p.36.

Rogers, Tim
Disaster on the Ice

Wakeham, P.J.
Dan Downey, the hero of the Newfoundland disaster, 1914
New-Land Magazine 1962 Summer-Autumn vol 1 p. 3-5 & 11

Wei, Jamie De
Great Disaster fiftieth anniversary
Newfoundland Quarterly 1964 Spring v. 63(1) p.11-12

Whiffen, Bruce
Weather event of the millennium
**Periodical Articles – Section 1 is about the SS Newfoundland and Section 2 is about the SS Southern Cross.**

**Section 2: SS Southern Cross**

Brown, Harold.
Forgotten Disaster

Bussey, Barry
Their Cross to Bear(re loss of Southern Cross 1914 & loss of 3 sons of Bussey family)

Hanrahan, Maura
Day of Mourning: Part 2 Disaster Spring of 1914

Morris, Don
Loss of the Southern Cross
**Newfoundland Magazine** 1982 April/May vol. 4(5) p18-19.

Parsons, Alex A.
The Newfoundland tragedy and the loss of the Southern Cross with passing references to other notable sealing disasters.

Rogers, Tim
Last Voyage of the Southern Cross
**Newfoundland Quarterly** 1980 Fall vol. 76(3) p. 21-30.

Rogers, Tim
The Sinking of the Southern Cross
Periodical Articles – Section 1 is about the SS Newfoundland and Section 2 is about the SS Southern Cross.

Section 2: SS Southern Cross

Ryan, Shirley
A Witch’s warning: superstitions surrounding the Southern Cross

Southern Cross photo
Newfoundland Quarterly 1935 Oct vol. 35(2) p. 12.

Selwyn-Brown, Arthur
Southern Cross flies over the Atlantic from the east

Southern Cross, S.S.
Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador 1994 vol. 5: p. 242

Photographs

Pictures of the Sealing Disaster – General
C203-C209

Pictures of Sealing Ships

SS Florizel – C223
SS Southern Cross A158
SS Stephano C115
Websites
(These sites were active at date of printing.)

Section 1): SS. Newfoundland

Archival material about Newfoundland and Labrador:

http://archivalmoments.ca/tag/s-s-newfoundland/

Elliston Websites:

http://www.homefromthesea.ca/1914-sealing-disasters


Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador Website:

http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/sealing_disaster.html
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/arts/agnl/blackwood.html

National Film Board – I Just Didn’t Want to Die

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcQDFqghAQY (Part One)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nvdSLr8vNc (Part Two)
Websites
(These sites were active at date of printing.)

Section 1): SS. Newfoundland

Provincial Historic Commemorations Webtsite:

Songs about Disasters (has the lyrics):
http://disastersongs.ca/1914-newfoundland/

Section 2): Southern Cross Websites

Newfoundland Grand Bank Website:
http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/southern-cross-hist-car.shtml

Songs about Disasters (has the lyrics):
http://disastersongs.ca/1914-southern-cross/

Yetman Family Genealogy Website:
http://www.newfoundlandtreasures.com/yetgen/southerncross.htm