



Home from The Sea



A CAPTAIN'S LIFE At Sea and at Home TRAVELLING EXHIBIT

In February 1914, two devastating maritime tragedies struck Newfoundland, claiming the lives of 254 men and boys. The sinking of the SS Southern Cross on its return from the seal hunt, coupled with the stranding of sealers from the SS Newfoundland during the same storm, left a profound mark on Newfoundland's history.

To honor those lost, the small town of Elliston, Newfoundland, established the Home from The Sea – Sealers Memorial and Interpretation Centre in 2014, marking the 100th anniversary of what is

now known as the Great Sealing Disaster of 1914. Sealing, though controversial today, was once a cornerstone of Newfoundland's economic development, providing livelihoods to many and fostering the independence of coastal communities.

Building on the success of the permanent memorial, the supporting foundation launched a traveling exhibit to share this poignant chapter of maritime history with audiences worldwide.

THE STORIES TOLD in *A Captain's Life at Sea and at Home*

This exhibit offers a rare glimpse into the lives of a rural coastal community in Newfoundland between 1890 and 1940. It captures a transitional era, as two-masted schooners gave way to iron and steam-driven vessels. The exhibit delves into the seal fishery, revealing the daring journeys of sealers "going to the ice," their immense risks, and the profound tragedy that shaped their industry.

Through the lens of the Randell family, visitors will discover the remarkable lives of Isaac "Bob" Randell and his siblings. From Isaac's rise as a sea captain and his heroic rescue of stranded sealers to his international trade ventures, the exhibit highlights the skills and bravery required to navigate life at sea. His brother Egbert (Jack) Randell's daring schooner race from Brazil to Newfoundland and their sister Mary's contributions as a nurse, educator, and community leader further enrich this narrative. These stories showcase not just the maritime heritage of Newfoundland but also the resilience of its people, particularly women who upheld communities while men were away.

As urban migration accelerates, preserving and sharing these unique stories of rural life becomes ever more critical.

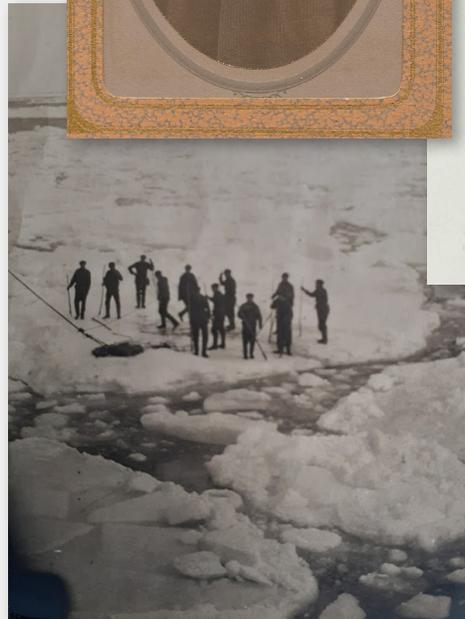
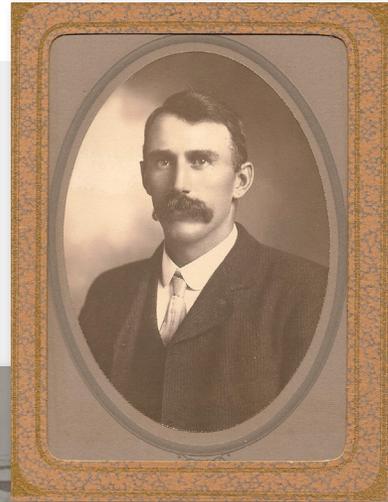




EXHIBIT COMPONENTS

The exhibit features eight interpretive panels, along with artifacts, audio, and video stories:

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Panels are in English and French.

AUDIO-VISUAL ELEMENTS

The narrated slides and video stories are in English.

TABLET DISPLAYS

TABLET #1

Slide presentation on Captain Egbert Randell's career.

TABLET #2

Captioned video showcasing sealers on the moving sea ice.

EXHIBIT PANELS

INTRODUCTORY PANEL

A Captain's Life at Sea and at Home introduces the exhibit and its focus on maritime heritage.

CAPTAIN ISAAC "BOB" RANDELL

Explore the life of a sealing captain who became a local hero. Learn about Captain Randell's role in rescuing stranded sealers, his international trade ventures, and his political career in Newfoundland.

ON BEING A CAPTAIN

Understand the journey to becoming a captain, which relied more on apprenticeship and mentorship than formal education. This panel illustrates the leadership skills required to navigate icy waters and ensure the safety of crews.

THE RACE

This interactive panel features a 42-inch AV screen with headsets. Narrated by renowned Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent, this segment chronicles Egbert Randell's thrilling schooner race from Pernambuco, Brazil, to St. John's, Newfoundland, through a letter written to family, slides, and narration.

WOMEN AT HOME

Debunk the myth of women waiting passively for men to return. This panel highlights the multifaceted roles of women in rural communities as providers, educators, workers, and leaders. It also sheds light on their participation in the landsman seal hunt.

THE SS BELLAVENTURE

Trace the history of this steel-hulled icebreaker, from its role in the seal hunt to its recovery efforts during the Great Sealing Disaster. Follow its journey from Newfoundland to the West Indies and eventually Russia, including a harrowing transatlantic crossing evading German U-boats.

MARY "MAY" RANDELL

Learn about the extraordinary life of Mary Randell, who served as a nurse during the Great War, an educator, and a community leader. Her contributions to organizations like the Girl Guides, NONIA, and St. John Ambulance earned her widespread respect, culminating in her burial with full military honors in 1956.

SEALING LIFE

Gain insight into the seal hunt as one of the 19th century's most dangerous yet lucrative industries. Learn how seal oil fueled streetlamps in Europe and supported the economy of Newfoundland, accounting for 30% of its exports in the 1800s.

INCLUDED ARTIFACTS

The exhibit includes a collection of artifacts displayed in protective Lexan cases:

1. Mary Randell's personal Bible
2. A carving by Egbert Randell
3. A monocular spyglass

By bringing A Captain's Life at Sea and at Home to a global audience, this exhibit preserves the rich maritime heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador while highlighting the resilience and resourcefulness of its people. It serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of those who lived by the sea.

To learn more about pricing and the booking process of this exhibit, contact us at:

info@homefromthesea.ca

(709) 476-3003



Home from The Sea

EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

SIZE

225ft² (69m²)
Minimum of 15ft x 15ft (457m x 457m) of space required

CEILING HEIGHT

8ft 8in (2.65m)

PANEL SIZES

Each panel 46in wide

SECURITY

Exhibition requires a limited-access, lockable space with security staff during public hours

SHIPPING

One-way, inbound, paid by host venue

LANGUAGES

All text panels in English and French,
audio recordings in English only

RENTAL FEE

Please enquire

FEATURES

- Two video screen tablets featuring video and slide presentations about Randall's story and the lifestyles and challenges of life on the sea
 - Multiple artifacts and casings
 - Audio dramatized readings by world-renowned Newfoundland born actor Gordon Pinsent
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CONTACT

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homefromthesea.ca/travelling-exhibit/



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