

HALIBURTON HOUSE MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To introduce and celebrate the contribution to the literary history of Nova Scotia (and by extension of Canada) of the author and humourist Thomas Chandler Haliburton.
- » To place Haliburton, the lawyer, judge and unrepentant Tory, in the context of his times, and thus increase understanding and appreciation of the social, political, religious and economic history of colonial Nova Scotia in the first half of the 19th century.
- » To interpret the history and evolving architecture of “Clifton,” the history and natural history of its estate (at one time over 60 acres) and the story of its gypsum mines.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

A. FORMING

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Glaciers, Deposits, and Erosion: Landscape of the estate and surrounding countryside.

D. RELATING

D.7 Social Equality

- Social Conflict: Elitism in early 19th century society.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life: Upstairs/downstairs.

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Architecture: Evolution of a house.

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

C. EXPLOITING

C.2 Resource Development

- Mining: Gypsum – its use and history in the Nova Scotia economy.

D. RELATING

D.2 Governance and Politics

- British Colonial Government: “Tory” ism and Haliburton.
- Responsible Government: Importance of Haliburton as a social satirist.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Childhood Experiences
- Food on the Table

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Literature/Poetry/Drama

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

A.1 Geological Formation

- Creation of Mineral Deposits

B. EVOLVING

B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life: Environment of the estate.

B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird and Fish Environments & Habitats
- Mammal Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Mammals

B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

- Expulsion and Return of the Acadians

B.5 Response to Place

- Age of Sail: 1830 – 1880
- Mining Towns, Farming Towns, Logging Towns

D. RELATING

D.4 Communications

- Newspapers/Magazines

D.6 Religion and Spirituality

- Catholicism & Identity

D.7 Social Equality

- Privilege/Social Circles: Haliburton as a representative of a colonial reality based on birth, education, religion, and political influence.

E. LIVING

E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Justice

CONCLUSIONS

Use Thomas Chandler Haliburton to interpret an understanding and appreciation of colonial Nova Scotia, as well as his importance as an historian and satirist. Look for contemporary, local connections (i.e., contemporary, local authors) that can be related to Haliburton and his writings. Make use of the estate to integrate more natural history interpretation into the visitor experience. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic “Indigenous Peoples” (part of D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.