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National Historic Parks and Sites, 1952-1953

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NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES, 1952-1953

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES SERVICE, NATIONAL
PARKS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES
AND DEVELOPMENT

THE NATIONAL PARKS and Historic Sites Service is entrusted with the restoration, preservation and administration of national historic parks and sites, and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding persons in Canadian history. In this phase of its work the Service is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians, representing the various provinces of the Dominion.

The personnel of the Board is as follows: Chairman, Professor Fred Landon, London, Ontario; Professor D. C. Harvey, Halifax, Nova Scotia; the Honourable E. Fabre-Surveyer, Montreal, Quebec; the Reverend Antoine d'Eschambault, Genthon, Manitoba; Professor M. H. Long, Edmonton, Alberta; Dr. Walter N. Sage, Vancouver, British Columbia; the Honourable Thane A. Campbell, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Dr. Wm. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, Ottawa, Ontario; C. E. A. Jeffery, St. John's, Newfoundland; Dr. Alfred G. Bailey, Fredericton, New Brunswick; Campbell Innes, Battleford, Saskatchewan; Dr. F. J. Alcock, Ottawa, Ontario. C. G. Childe, National Parks and Historic Sites Services, Ottawa, Ontario, is Secretary to the Board.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, May 27-30, 1952, when a wide variety of matters relating to the background of Canada was reviewed. Of the many sites that have been considered by the Board to date, 459 have been marked or acquired and 183 others recommended for attention at a later date.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS

Fort Anne National Historic Park is situated in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. The museum building, restored in 1935, was originally the Officers' Quarters and was built in 1797-8 under the supervision of Edward, Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria, when he was commander-in-chief of the British Forces in North America with headquarters at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The east side and north end of the museum building and some of the interior woodwork was painted as well as the chain fences, cannon, cannon balls, park benches, flag pole, sentry box and wooden signs. A new furnace and twin circulating system were installed in the basement of the museum; new seats were made for the bandstand; an old well was filled in; the fence between the park property and the adjoining military cemetery was removed, and the iron fences around some of the graves were painted. The hedges and shrubbery were trimmed, improvement work was carried out on the driveway and paths, and all bronze tablets in the park were cleaned. A number of interesting exhibits were obtained for the museum.

A total of 20,558 persons signed the museum register during the year.

Port Royal National Historic Park is situated at Lower Granville, Nova Scotia. A replica of the group of buildings, which sheltered the first European settlers in Canada, has been erected on the exact site where the Port Royal Habitation stood nearly three and a half centuries ago. The original Habitation was the headquarters for about two years of Samuel de Champlain, famous explorer and chief geographer to Henry IV of France. Champlain chose the location and drew up the plan of settlement.

Preserving oil was applied to the shingle roof and to some of the buildings of the Habitation as well as to the new platform on which a cannon has been mounted. A new bridge was constructed at the entrance to the parking area, a flag pole was erected at the site of Scots Fort and repairs were made to the fence enclosing the park property. All ironwork in the buildings was cleaned and oiled, the storage tank was repaired and the lawns were rolled and trimmed.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 15,168.

Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park is situated near Sackville, New Brunswick. Built by the French, the Fort was intended to be an Acadian stronghold against the undefined claims of the English to Acadia. Around the fort the Acadians had their homes and farms. It was captured by the British, under Monckton, in 1755, when the fort was strengthened and its defenses extended by a system of entrenchment, traces of which still remain.

A new heating system was installed in the basement of the museum and additional plumbing installed in the Ladies' restroom. The exterior woodwork of the museum building was painted as well as the pavilion, lodge, custodian's residence, garage, and the various signs throughout the park. The lawn near the museum was extended, flowers were planted, all bronze tablets on the grounds were cleaned, and the grass along the paths and around the parking area was trimmed.

A total of 23,249 persons signed the visitors book.

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park is situated about three miles from the town of Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Here were enacted the early stages of the long struggle which culminated in the possession of Canada for the British Crown. Erected more than two centuries ago by the French, who had named the settlement in honour of Louis XIV, King of France, Louisbourg was captured by the British forces in 1745, but was subsequently handed back to the French. The fortress was again besieged by the English and finally captured by them in 1758. It is interesting to recall that one of the brigades of infantry engaged in the recapture of Louisburg was commanded by General Wolfe, who was later to die heroically at Quebec.

Restoration work was carried out on the remains of the Hospital and Citadel. A section of the breastwork near the main entrance was

repaired and additional rock and rubble hauled for fill. The main entrance road was levelled and graded and repairs were made to the Maurepas bridge. The restrooms and basement were painted as well as the flag pole and the exterior woodwork of the museum building. The culverts and septic tanks were cleaned, the fence enclosing the park property was repaired, the hay on the outer sections was cut, and the grass around the museum and residence was trimmed.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 19,080.

Fort Chambly National Historic Park is situated about twenty miles southeast of Montreal, on a conspicuous headland on the Richelieu River. The first fort, built by the French in 1665 as a protection against the Iroquois, was of wooden construction. After many vicissitudes, it was rebuilt of stone, this work being completed in 1711. In 1760 the fort was surrendered to the British, who, with a small armed force, held it until 1775. In that year the Americans captured the fort, which they evacuated in the following year. The fort, later repaired and garrisoned by Sir Guy Carleton, played an important part in the War of 1812.

Additional repointing was carried out on the old walls of the fort and on the retaining wall near the rapids; the roof of the main building was sprayed with shingle stain and a new casing was installed for the door leading to the dungeon. The interior and exterior of the museum was painted as well as the picnic tables, park benches, flag pole, and fences. Repairs were made to the pavilion, a ditch by the cemetery fence was filled in, top soil was spread on the lawns, the dead trees were removed and others trimmed, flowers were planted, and the paths were raked and trimmed. Locks were installed on some of the museum cases and additional exhibits were received.

During the year 75,571 persons signed the museum register book.

Fort Lennox National Historic Park is located on Ile-aux-Noix in the Richelieu River, about thirteen miles south of St. Johns, Quebec. The present fort, which stands on the site of one previously erected by the French, was built by the Imperial authorities in the period from 1812 to 1827. The island, comprising an area of 150 acres, was acquired by the National Parks Service in 1921, and extensive works have since been carried out on the buildings and grounds.

New flooring was laid in a section of the Mens' Barracks and a further section of the old flooring was removed to make way for additional new flooring which will be laid shortly. The Powder Magazine and the stone stairs at the rear of the Mens' Barracks were repointed, the bridge over the moat at the south entrance was repaired, cement steps were constructed leading up from the west wharf and a cement cover was made for the septic tank. A small building was erected to house the park equipment, and the doors of the case-mates were painted, as well as the floor of the museum, toilets, picnic tables, boathouse, and bridges. The windows of the various buildings were repaired, one of the fireplaces in the picnic grounds was rebuilt, the lawn on the parade ground was levelled and rolled, the grass along

the ramparts and in the cemeteries was trimmed and the bronze tablets on the island were cleaned.

Visitors registered at the park during the year numbered 9,668.

Fort Wellington National Historic Park is situated at the east end of the town of Prescott, Ontario, and adjacent to Highway No. 2. The fort, named after the Duke of Wellington, was erected when the British authorities decided to fortify Prescott as one of the most vulnerable points of attack in the War of 1812, and as the main base for the defence of communications between Kingston and Montreal. It remains as it was when finally completed in 1838, an impressive landmark.

The fort buildings were painted, repairs were made to the palisades and to the entrance of the Caponniere, the masonry at the entrance to the fort was repointed and repairs were made to the chimneys of the original Officers' Quarters, which is now used as the custodian's residence. Special electric lighting was installed in the new display cases obtained for the museum and additional exhibits were received. The grass on the front of the park property and on the lawn and inner mounds was trimmed, flowers were planted, and an incinerator was built.

A total of 8,097 persons signed the museum register during the year.

Fort Malden National Historic Park is situated in Amherstburg, Ontario. The fort was built in 1797-9 by the Second Battalion, Royal Canadian Volunteers. It was strengthened in 1812 as the principal military station on the western frontier and dismantled and abandoned in September, 1813. Only slight evidences of the original fortifications remain.

The driveway and paths were levelled and given a covering of crushed stone, the iron fences and park benches were painted, and stone steps were constructed on the slope of the moat. The grass on the lawns was cut and the trees and shrubs were trimmed. Additional exhibits of interest were obtained for the museum.

During the year 15,564 persons signed the museum register.

Fort Prince of Wales National Historic Park is situated at the mouth of Churchill River, Churchill, Manitoba, and comprises an area of approximately fifty acres. The fort was built from plans drawn by English military engineers to secure control of Hudson Bay for the Hudson's Bay Company and England. Construction was commenced in 1733 and completed in 1771. It was surrendered to, and partially destroyed by, a French naval force under La Perouse in 1782. Its ruins, which are among the most interesting military remains on this continent, have been partly restored and more than forty cannon have been unearthed. Those suitable have been mounted on the walls of the fort.

General supervision was carried out.

Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park is situated on the west bank of the Red River about twenty miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and comprises an area of approximately 12.75 acres. It was built between 1831 and 1839 by the Hudson's Bay Company and, although never besieged, played an important part in meeting the threat of war and rebellion. Indian Treaty No. 1 was signed there on August 3, 1871. It remained a place of considerable importance until about 1882 when the head of navigation for the Red River was removed from there to old Colville Landing on the opposite side of the river near Selkirk.

Restoration and repointing was carried out on the walls of the fort, a mastic cap was placed on the top of the walls, the bastions were cleaned out and repaired, drains were installed and a flag pole was erected. The buildings and grounds have been leased to the Motor Country Club until December 31, 1955.

Fort Battleford National Historic Park is situated in the Town-site of Battleford, four miles south of the City of North Battleford and comprises 36.7 acres. The buildings include the Superintendent's House, Inspector's Cottage, Guard Room, Hospital Stable, and Barracks. The first three buildings formed part of the original Mounted Police Post established there in 1876 by Colonel James Walker and linked up with such posts as Macleod, Fort Walsh, Calgary, Edmonton, Carlton, and Swan River. Located in the territory of the Cree Indian, this old post had a stabilizing and encouraging effect in the settlement of the Prairie Provinces, and, during the Rebellion of 1885, many settlers sought shelter and protection there. It was also the place of execution of those who were sentenced to death for participation in the Frog Lake Massacre.

A section of the stockade was torn down and rebuilt, two bastions were constructed, lightning arresters were installed on all the buildings and a fence was erected to enclose the park property. The interior and exterior of the Superintendent's House was painted as well as the roofs of the Guard House and Hospital Stable. Additional show cases were acquired for the museum, a number of mannequins were obtained to display the old uniforms on hand, the exhibits were cleaned and re-arranged and additional items of interest were purchased. The entrance road from the main highway was repaired, the inner driveway was graded and gravelled, a well was dug, road signs were erected, trees were planted, and the lawns were trimmed and sprayed.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 11,259.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

Maurice Galbraith Cullen, R.C.A., St. John's, Newfoundland. A tablet was erected in the Hall of Memorial University to Maurice Galbraith Cullen, distinguished painter of the Canadian winter scene. The tablet was unveiled by Sir Leonard Outerbridge, Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, on January 16, 1952.

Alcock-Brown Transatlantic Flight, St. John's, Newfoundland. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected in a small park at the

intersection of LeMarchant Road and Patrick Street to Captain Sir John Alcock and Lieutenant Sir Arthur Whitten Brown of the R.A.F., who, at 12.58 P.M. Newfoundland time, on June 14, 1919, took off near by in a Vickers Vimy aeroplane, on the first non-stop Transatlantic flight. Sixteen hours and twelve minutes later they landed at Clifton, Ireland, a distance of 1800 miles. The monument was unveiled in the presence of a distinguished gathering, including Sir Leonard Outerbridge, Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, on November 26, 1952.

Scots Fort, Port Royal National Historic Park, Lower Granville, N. S. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected to mark the site of Scots Fort, built in the form of a pentagon, mounting "4 demicolverin and 4 miniones", and occupied by the colonists of Sir William Alexander, 1629-32. On the restoration of Port Royal to France in 1632, forty-two survivors of the Scottish colony were sent to England by Commander de Razilly, in the "Saint Jean", one of the three ships in which he brought the new French colony to Acadia.

Gilbert Stuart Newton, R.A., Halifax, N. S. A tablet was affixed to the Nova Scotia College of Art building to Gilbert Stuart Newton, first native-born artist to be elected to the Royal Academy. Subject of Israel Zangwill's novel "The Master." The tablet was unveiled on October 24, 1952, by Reverend James W. Falconer, Professor Emeritus of Pine Hill Divinity Hall and President of the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia College of Art.

George Munro Grant, Stellarton, N. S. A tablet was affixed to the Town Hall to George Munro Grant, educationist and author of "Ocean to Ocean." He was Minister of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, 1863-77; Principal of Queen's University, 1877-1902 and President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1901.

The Pony Express, Victoria Beach, N. S. A tablet was affixed to a large boulder on the north side of the main road to commemorate the events connected with the Pony express. From February until November, 1849, when the telegraph office in Halifax was opened, news from Great Britain to the United States brought by the Cunard steamers, was expressed for The Associated Press and a rival organization from Halifax to Digby Gut, by riders who changed at Kentville but had fresh mounts every twelve miles of the 144 mile route. The news was carried by steamer to Saint John and from there dispatched to its destination by telegraph.

The Citadel, Halifax, N. S. The custody of certain lands and structures comprising the Citadel was taken over by the Department in 1951 with a view to their development and preservation. The construction of this fortification was commenced in 1828 and completed 30 years later. Additional restoration and improvement work on a large scale was carried out on this old structure during the year.

John Clarence Webster, C.M.G., Saint John, N. B. A tablet was erected in the main hall of the New Brunswick Museum to John Clarence Webster, eminent surgeon, historian, author and professor. He was a leader in the movement for the preservation of Canada's historic past. The tablet was unveiled by Mrs. Webster on September 25, 1952.

William Davidson, Newcastle, N. B. A tablet was affixed to the Court House building to William Davidson, the first English-speaking settler in Miramichi. He was a pioneer in the fishing, masting, lumbering and ship-building industries, and had interests in foreign trade.

Archbishop Taché, Rivière-du-Loup, P.Q. A tablet affixed to an iron standard was erected on De Gaspé Avenue to Alexandre Antonin Taché, Archbishop of Saint Boniface. He was a well known missionary, writer, founder, and statesman.

First Butter Factory in Canada, Athelstan, P.Q. A tablet affixed to an iron standard was erected on the grounds of the Champlain Milk Products Company, Limited, to mark the spot where, in 1873, the First Butter Factory in Canada was established. The tablet was unveiled on October 28, 1952, by members of the local dairy industry.

Battle of Montmorency, Courville, P.Q. A cut-stone monument was erected on the east side of Courville Hill to commemorate the Battle of Montmorency which took place there on July 31, 1759, when the French troops, under Montcalm and Levis, repulsed General Wolfe's army.

The Quebec Fortification Walls, Quebec, P.Q. A considerable portion of these historic walls, exclusive of the Citadel and that part of the walls controlled by the City of Quebec, was taken over by the Department in 1950 in order that they may be maintained and preserved as a national historic site. Additional repair work on quite a large scale was carried out during the year on that section of the walls that has been acquired.

Sir John Alexander Macdonald, Kingston, Ont. A tablet was affixed to the existing monument in City Park to Sir John Alexander Macdonald, 1815-1891. First elected from Kingston to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada in 1844, he was for forty-seven years a leading figure in the public life of his country. One of the Fathers of Confederation, he became the first Prime Minister of Canada and held the office 1867-73; 1878-91. Under his leadership the new Dominion was extended from sea to sea by incorporation of the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island, and linked together by construction of the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific Railways.

First Military Test Flight, Petawawa, Ont. A tablet was affixed to a cairn on the camp grounds to commemorate the first military demonstration of aircraft flight in Canada which was given there in August, 1909, by J. A. D. McCurdy and F. W. Baldwin, with the assistance of the Royal Canadian Engineers. On the morning of August 2, they made four successful flights in the "Silver Dart". This aircraft was destroyed in landing after the fifth flight. Further flights were made in the "Baddeck No. 1" on August 12 and 13. The tests were terminated on the 13th, when this aircraft was damaged. A second tablet depicting the "Silver Dart" in flight was also affixed to the cairn. The monument was unveiled by the Honourable Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, on August 12, 1952.

Archibald McKellar MacMechan, Kitchener, Ont. A tablet was erected in the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School to Archibald McKellar MacMechan, scholar, teacher, and author. He

was Professor of English in Dalhousie University, 1889-1933. The tablet was unveiled on October 17, 1952.

Grant Allen, Kingston, Ont. A tablet was affixed to one of the stone pillars at the entrance to Alwington House to Grant Allen, popular writer on science and successful novelist.

Jean (McKishnie) Blewett, Chatham, Ont. A tablet was erected in the Public Library building to Jean (McKishnie) Blewett, poet, journalist, and novelist. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Kent County Historical Society, on April 23, 1952.

Battlefield of the Beechwoods or Beaver Dams, Thorold, Ont. A special tablet was affixed to the existing cairn, to the United States soldiers who were killed in the engagement which took place there on June 24, 1813. Their place of burial, about half a mile west of the cairn, is marked by a monument erected privately in 1874.

William Saunders, London, Ont. A tablet was affixed to a boulder erected by the local Public Utilities Commission in Campbell Memorial Park to William Saunders, Scientific Agriculturist and Director of the Federal Experimental Farms Branch, 1886-1911. He was President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1906. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the London and Middlesex Historical Society on October 1, 1952.

William Canniff, Cannifton, Ont. A tablet was erected in the Public School to William Canniff, physician, author, and historian of Early Upper Canada. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Public School officials on November 13, 1952.

Fort Dauphin, Winnipegosis, Man. A cairn with tablet was erected in the Village Park to commemorate the historic events connected with Fort Dauphin which was built in that vicinity in 1741 by Pierre de La Verendrye at the request of the Crees and Assiniboines. The cairn was unveiled in the presence of a distinguished gathering, including the Honourable Douglas Campbell, Premier of Manitoba, on August 17, 1952.

Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. A tablet was erected at the front entrance to the Legislative Building, to commemorate Manitoba becoming a Province of Canada. This important event took place on July 15, 1870, following two centuries of government under the Charter of 1670 to the Hudson's Bay Company, the administrations of the Selkirk Colony, the Council of Assiniboia, and the Provisional Government of 1869. The tablet was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor-General on October 28, 1952.

The Reverend George Bryce, Winnipeg, Manitoba. A tablet was affixed to the outer wall of the new Library and Theological building of the United College to the Reverend George Bryce, historian and teacher. He was the author of "The Remarkable History of the Hudson's Bay Company" and Founder of Manitoba College.

Cut Knife Battlefield, Poundmaker Indian Reserve No. 114, Sask. A cut-stone monument with tablet was erected on the site of the engagement which took place on May 2, 1885, when Lt. Col. W. D. Otter led 325 troops composed of North West Mounted Police, "B" Battery, "C" Company, Foot Guards, Queen's Own and Battleford Rifles, against the Cree and Assiniboine under Poundmaker and Fine

Day. After an engagement of six hours, the troops retreated to Battleford. The monument was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor-General on November 2, 1952.

Province of Saskatchewan, Regina, Sask. A tablet was affixed to a cut-stone monument in Victoria Park to commemorate Saskatchewan becoming a Province of Canada. Across this expanse of prairie, and northland of lake, stream and forest, drained by the Saskatchewan and Churchill Rivers, the Plains Indians roamed for centuries and later were induced to trap and trade by fur companies. Settlers were attracted into this area known as Rupert's Land and the North West Territories. The latter, after 1870, were ruled by a Provisional Council, succeeded in 1875 by the North West Council. By 1888 a Legislative Assembly was evolved. On September 4, 1905, the eastern portion of these territories was inaugurated by Earl Grey and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as the Province of Saskatchewan.

Paul Kane, Fort Battleford National Historic Park, Battleford, Sask. A tablet was erected in the museum building to Paul Kane whose paintings preserve for posterity the life of the Indians of the Northwest. The tablet was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor-General on November 3, 1952.

Fort Benton-Fort Macleod Trail, Coutts, Alta. A cut-stone monument with bronze tablet was erected near the new Customs and Immigration building to commemorate the Fort Benton-Fort Macleod Trail. Until the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway across the prairies in 1882 and 1883 the most practicable route to southern Alberta was by the Missouri River to Fort Benton and thence northward along the Fort Benton Trail by mule and bull team, cart and covered wagon, to Fort Macleod. The Trail crossed the international border about seven miles west of Coutts. By it came most of the travellers, mail and supplies for the region. The monument was unveiled by His Honour John J. Bowlen, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, on September 14, 1952.

Charles Alexander Magrath, Lethbridge, Alta. A tablet was erected in the City Hall to Charles Alexander Magrath, who, from 1878 to 1906, helped to make foundation surveys of the North West Territories and to develop the pioneer coal mining, railway and irrigation enterprises of Sir A. T. Galt and associates. He was the first Mayor of Lethbridge, a member of the Territorial Legislature and of Parliament, Chairman of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, Chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Waterways Commission, and member of the Newfoundland Royal Commission (1935). From youth to old age and from sea to sea he served Canada with uprightness and vision. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Mayor and Council of the City of Lethbridge, on September 16, 1952.

Fort St. James, Stuart Lake, B.C. A cairn with tablet was erected on property belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company to commemorate the historic events connected with Fort St. James. Founded in 1806 by Simon Fraser of the North West Company this fort has been the chief fur trading post in north-central British Columbia, formerly known as New Caledonia. Since 1821 it has been in con-

tinuous operation by the Hudson's Bay Company. As early as 1811 the Nor-Westers began here to cultivate the soil. Fort St. James has been a most important link in the water, land, and air communication with northern British Columbia.

Fort Victoria, Victoria, B. C. A tablet was affixed to the Government Street face of the Pemberton-Holmes building to mark the site of Fort Victoria. Founded by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1843, this fort became, after 1846, the headquarters of the Company's trade in British territory west of the Rocky Mountains. When the Colony of Vancouver Island was formed in 1849 Victoria was the capital, and in the fort the first Legislative Assembly met. The gold rush of 1858 led to the development of the City of Victoria. The early history of the city and the colony is closely intertwined with that of the fort. The last of the original buildings was demolished in 1862. The tablet was unveiled under the auspices of the Victoria Section of the British Columbia Historical Society, on August 28, 1952.

Richard Blanshard, Victoria, B. C. A tablet was affixed to the Post Office Section of the new Public Building on Government Street to Richard Blanshard, first Governor of Vancouver Island, 1849-1851, whose house stood on that site. The tablet was unveiled by the Rt. Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, on September 5, 1952.

Dr. John Stanley Plaskett, C.B.E. Victoria, B.C. A tablet was affixed to the telescope at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory to Dr. John Stanley Plaskett, internationally renowned for his work in astronomy. He was Director of this Observatory, 1918-1935. The tablet was unveiled at a Joint Meeting of the American Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific on June 26, 1952.