# **The Franklin Expedition**



#### UDSL: Nov 13, 2014 Neil Newman

## What was the Franklin expedition?

- A British voyage of Arctic exploration led by Captain Sir John Franklin sets off from England on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1845 with 129 men. The ships are Terror and Erebus.
- The vessels are seen for the last time by Europeans in Baffin Bay July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1845
- Search missions are carried out starting 1848, involving 13 ships at peak effort
- There are no survivors. The ships are never found. Only a few tantalizing clues are discovered over the years.



#### Franklin Expedition in Canadian Culture

"In every culture many stories are told, (but) only some are told and retold, and these stories bear examining ... in Canadian literature, one such story is the Franklin expedition" - Margaret Atwood

#### MORDECAI RICHLER



# SO



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JULES VERNE

THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN HATTERAS discontinuous in Million Rowses.



#### Dominique FORTIER

#### DU BON USAGE **DES ÉTOILES**





#### Lady Franklin's Lament

#### FOR HER HUSBAND.

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W. A. B. HAMILTON.

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#### Finding a ship in the arctic is hard



## What happened?

- Without survivors, our only clues come from discovering artifacts and Inuit oral tradition
- Only one document is ever discovered. The note is found in 1859 on King William Island



28 of May 184 ] Human wheather har 1841 - y al Beechery in Late 14 43 Le M. Logging 15 and De Willigton Channel to Lat 7?" by the West side of Commallie Isla John Franklin counading the Aleder Witterwas finds this paper is requisited to forward it to the the Admiralty. Lendon, with a sole of the new and place of which it use found ; or, if more convenient, to deliver it fur that purpose to the British Consul at the meaner Fort Quinconsgou trouverness papier est prié d'y marquer la tenta et lieu ou l l'aura trouvé, et de le faire parvenir au plutot su Secretaire de l'Aminesté Britannique à Londres. CONTRACTORS que hallore sets Papel, se la suplica de esvierto al Sacretaria sei Abriruntunga, en Londrés, con una sata del tiempo y del lugar tuis as halls Env leder die dit Porier mag, tinden, wordt hiermasle varaugt, om het nelve, ten sposdigste, he willers under aan den Heer Minister was der Marine der Nederlanden auf e Gervenlage, of wel am den Sporetæris der Britsche Admiriditeit in Landau, en dass by in voogen eene Nata-

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Party consisting of 2 officers and 6 men left the ships on Monday, 24 May 1847.

Gm. Gore, Lieut.

Chas. F. Des Voeus, Mate.

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April 25, 1848 – H. M. ships 'Terror' and 'Erebus' were deserted on the 22d April, 5 leagues N. N. W. of this, having been beset since 12th September 1846. The officers and crews, consisting of 105 souls, under the command of Captain F. R. M. Crozier, landed here in lat. 69° 37' 42" N., long 98° 41' W. Sir John Franklin died on the 11th June, 1847; and the total loss by deaths in the expedition has been to this date 9 officers and 15 men.

### The Graves





## Lead poisoning

- Bone samples reveal high concentrations of lead in 1981
- Graves are exhumed for tissue / hair samples in 1984 confirming results
- Lead poisoning leads to severe mental and physical problems
- Badly soldered cans prepared in a hurry for the voyage?
- Poorly designed water systems?

#### Cannibalism

- The voyage had food supplies for 5 years
- "from the mutilated state of many of the bodies and the contents of the kettles, it is evident that our wretched Countrymen had been driven to the last dread alternative — cannibalism — as a means of prolonging existence"

#### Inuit encounters

- 1850: Inuit board an abandoned ship. Later, 40 men are seen walking south.
- 1851: Inuit hunters see four men heading south
- 1852-1858: Possible sighting of two survivors heading south
- 1854: Inuit interviews: items from expedition, tells that men starved to death after resorting to cannibalism

## **HMS Investigator**

- Set out in 1848 to search for Franklin
- Abandoned in 1853 after becoming trapped in the ice.
- Inuit use the ship's hull for copper and iron.
   One year the ship is "Gone without a trace"
- Discovered in 2010



### Ship discovery video



## Still being reported on

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23 comments 24 F1 16 2 10 F5 6 8-1 17 Fint / AA Parks Canada has retrieved a bronze beil from the wreck of HMS Erebus, one of two ships lost during Sir John Franklin's doomed expedition in search of the Northwest Passage.								<ul> <li>MAGAZINE Find out why oil pipelines will not stop mile- long trains from chugging through towns like Lac La Biche</li> </ul>			
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DOD DESIGN

#### Man Proposes, God disposes

