

Presentation to The Arctic Club
at New Club, Edinburgh
December 2018

The Story of Dr. John Rae

Dr. John Andrews



Stromness, Orkneys



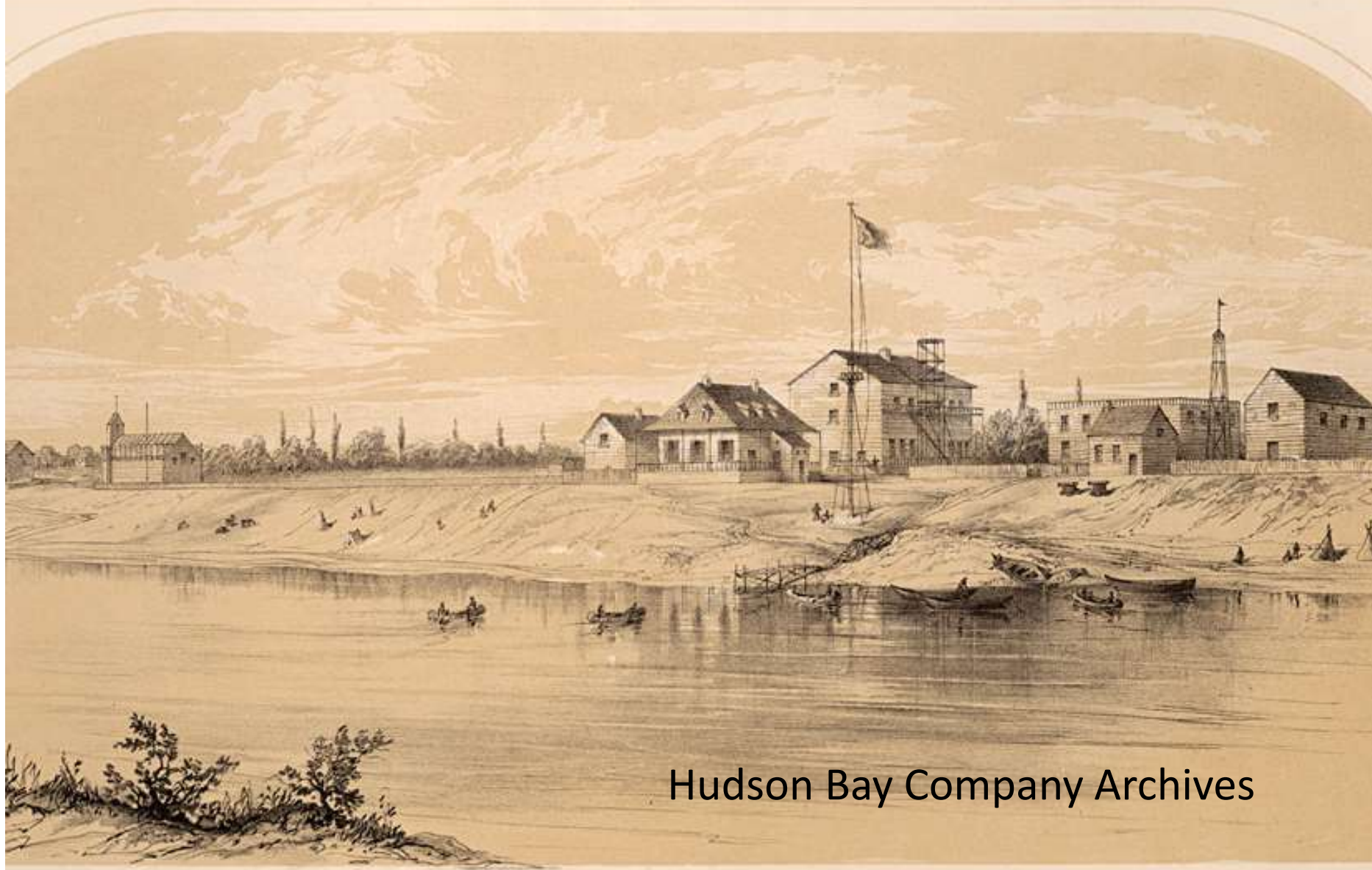
The Hall of Clestrain in the Orkneys where John Rae was born 30th Sept 1813

As a boy, a keen hunter and sailor

Qualified as a surgeon from Edinburgh University
aged 19

In 1833 went to Moose Factory as a doctor working
for the Hudson Bay Company for one year but
stayed 14 years

Became expert on snow shoes, sleds, and building
igloos, learning from the Inuit peoples



Hudson Bay Company Archives

MOOSE FACTORY. - 1854.



Dr John Rae in arctic explorer mode



Snow shoes designed
by Dr John Rae
Stromness Museum



Halkett Inflatable Boat
Stromness Museum

**Selected to continue the survey of the
arctic coast of Canada 1846-7,
for which he received the Founder's
Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical
Society**

**Three more expeditions 1848-9,
1850-1, and 1853-4**

**Discovered Rae Strait, the
“missing link” in the
Northwest Passage**



1853 HMS Investigator lost in the search for Franklin



Wreck of HMS Investigator found July 2010
in Mercy Bay, Banks Island



Barack Obama sitting at the Resolute Desk 2009



The “Grinnell” desk in the Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass. USA



The “other” Resolute Desk in the Royal Navy Museum, Portsmouth



Dr John Rae's arctic explorations by land and sea

- 1846-47
- 1848
- 1851
- 1853-54

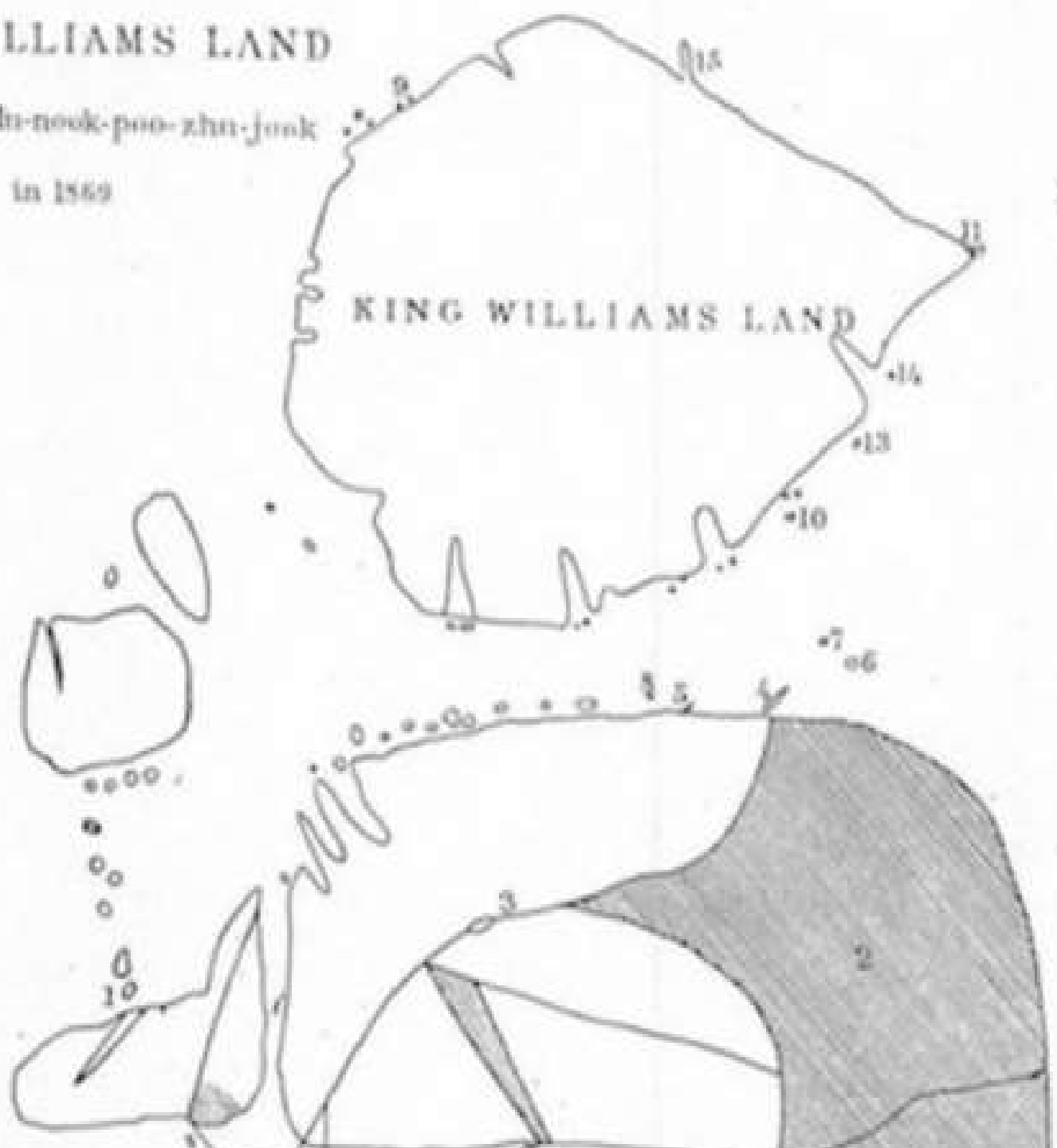


**Brought back to the
Admiralty the news of the
total loss of the Franklin
Expedition, including
evidence of cannibalism
amongst the dying crew**

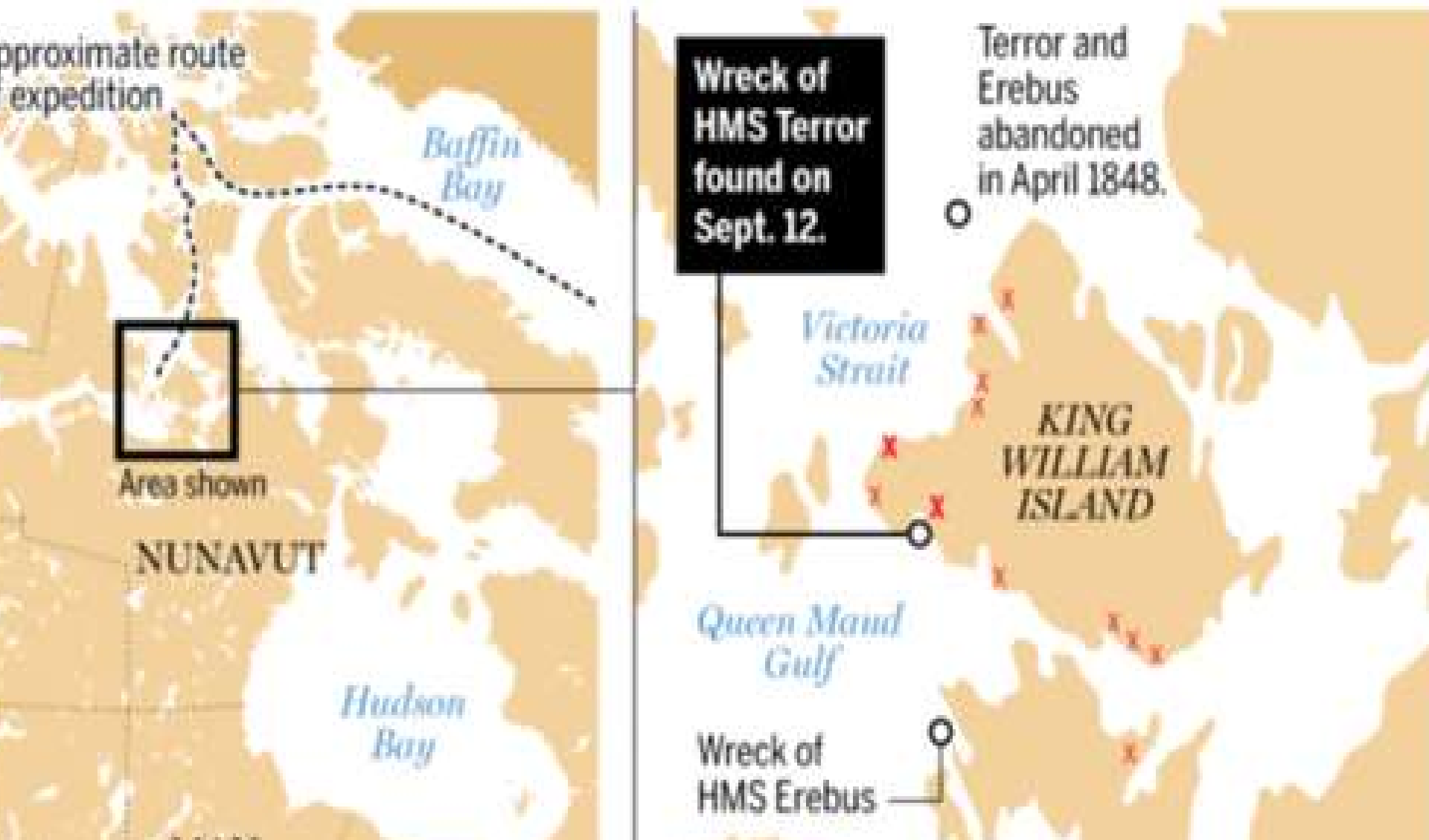
KING WILLIAMS LAND

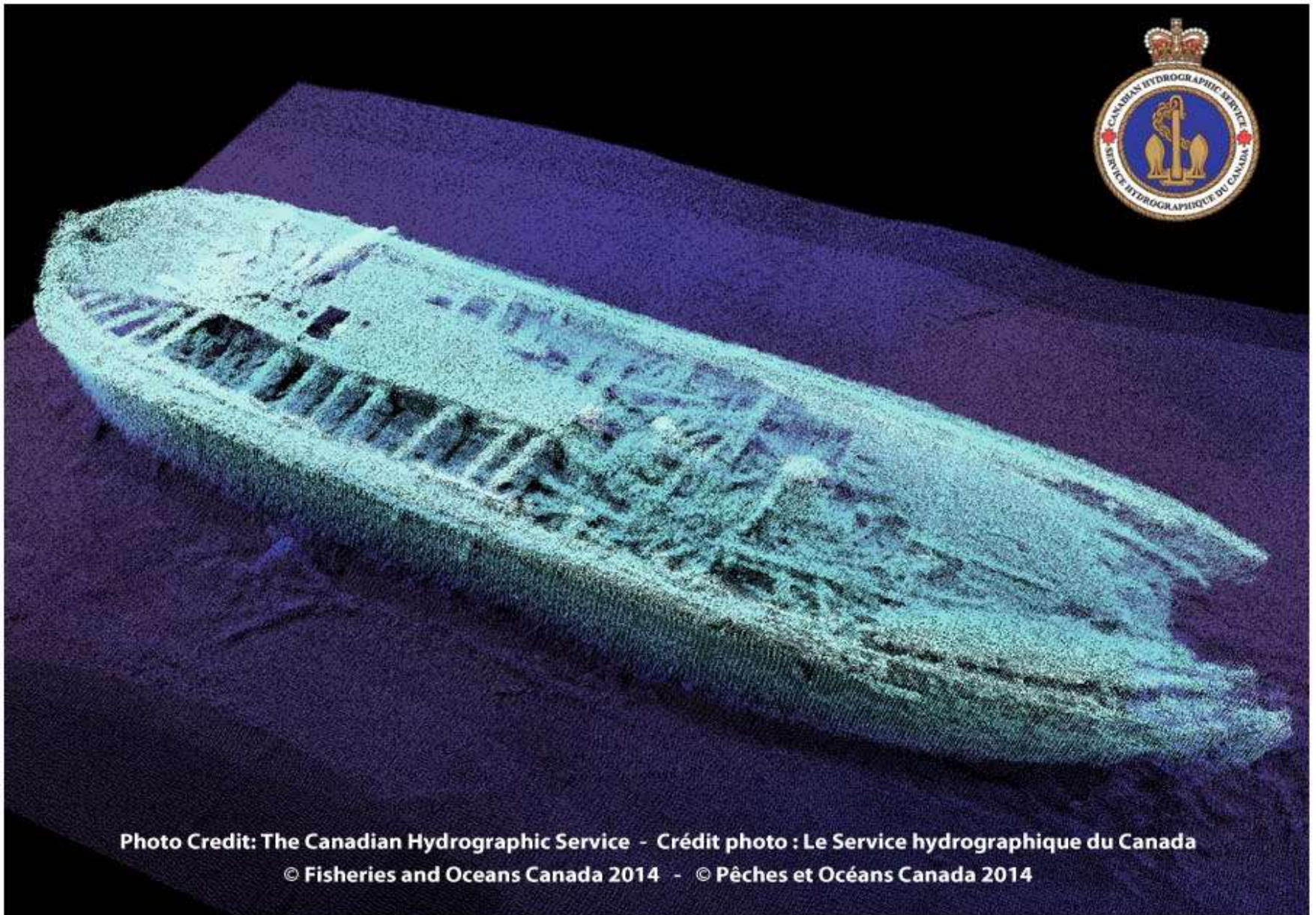
By the limit In-nook-poo-zhu-jook

In 1869



The HMS Terror was used in several voyages of exploration, including Sir John Franklin's ill-fated quest for the Northwest Passage in 1845. The wreck has been found in pristine condition.





Sonar image of HMS Erebus wreck found Sept 2014



The bell from the wreck, new in 1845



HMS Terror wreck found Sept 2016

Memorial to Sir John Franklin in Waterloo Place London

The “discoverer” of
the Northwest
Passage



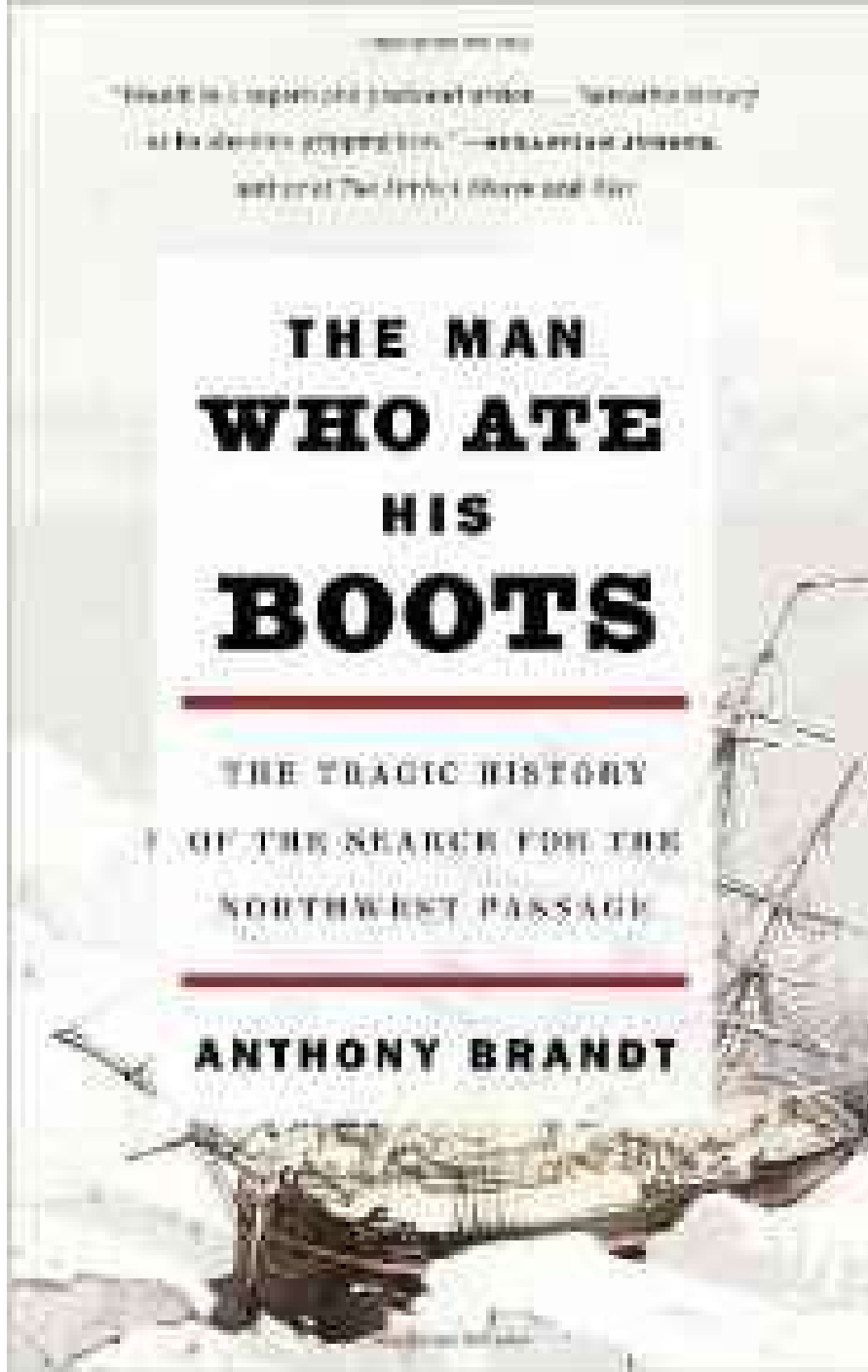
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"Brandt is a superb and polished writer... He tells the story
of his heroes grippingly."—*Washington Post*
author of *The Arctic Skies* and *500*

THE MAN WHO ATE HIS BOOTS

THE TRAGIC HISTORY
OF THE SEARCH FOR THE
NORTHWEST PASSAGE

ANTHONY BRANDT





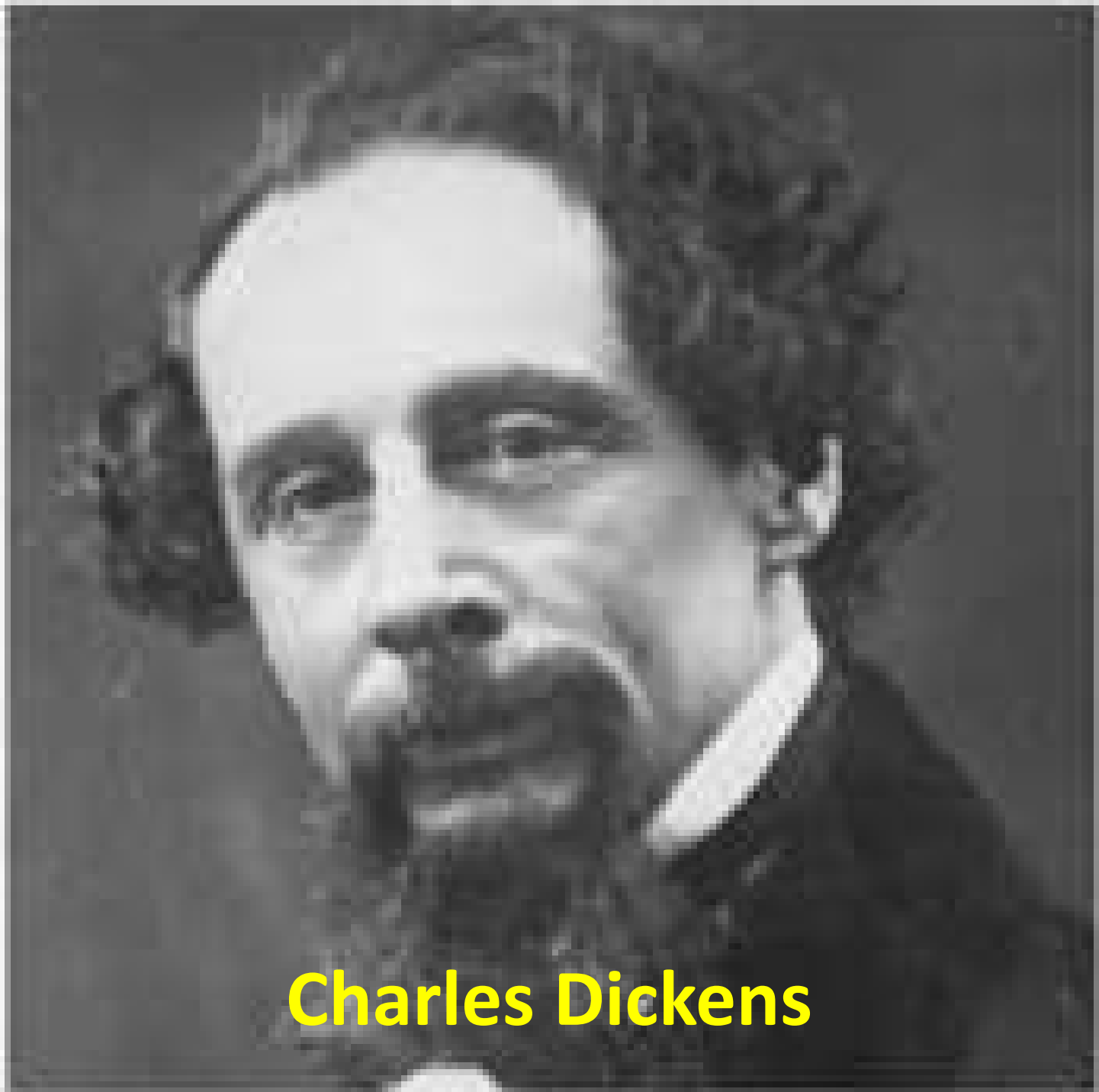
Artifacts used by the Franklin Expedition, found on King William Island and purchased from Inuits by Dr John Rae
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Excerpt from Dr John Rae's report to the Admiralty, as published in The Times newspaper October 24th 1854.

“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 sustaining life”.

Lady Jane Franklin





Charles Dickens

Excerpt from Charles Dickens's article in
"Household Words" published December 1854.

"It is impossible to form an estimate of the character of any race of savages, from their deferential behaviour to the white man while he is strong. . . We believe every savage to be in his heart covetous, treacherous, and cruel; and we have yet to learn what knowledge the white man—lost, houseless, shipless, apparently forgotten by his race; plainly famine-stricken, weak, frozen, helpless, and dying—has of the gentleness of the Esquimaux nature."

Extract from the book "Fatal Passage" by Ken McGoogan

Dickens criticized Rae for having taken "the word of a savage," and, confusing the Inuit with the Victorian stereotype of the African, argued, "Even the sight of cooked and dismembered human bodies among this or that tattoo'd tribe, is not proof. Such appropriate offerings to their barbarous, wide-mouthed, goggle-eyed gods, savages have been often seen and known to make."

Dr John Rae was airbrushed from the history books

Died in Kensington on 22nd July 1893, a sad but not entirely forgotten man

Now buried in St Magnus Cathedral cemetery, Kirkwall, Orkneys



Photo John Welburn

Effigy in St Magnus Cathedral

By John Whitehead and Son, London and
paid for by public subscription

First published 1987

Introduction by MARGARET ATWOOD



FROZEN IN TIME

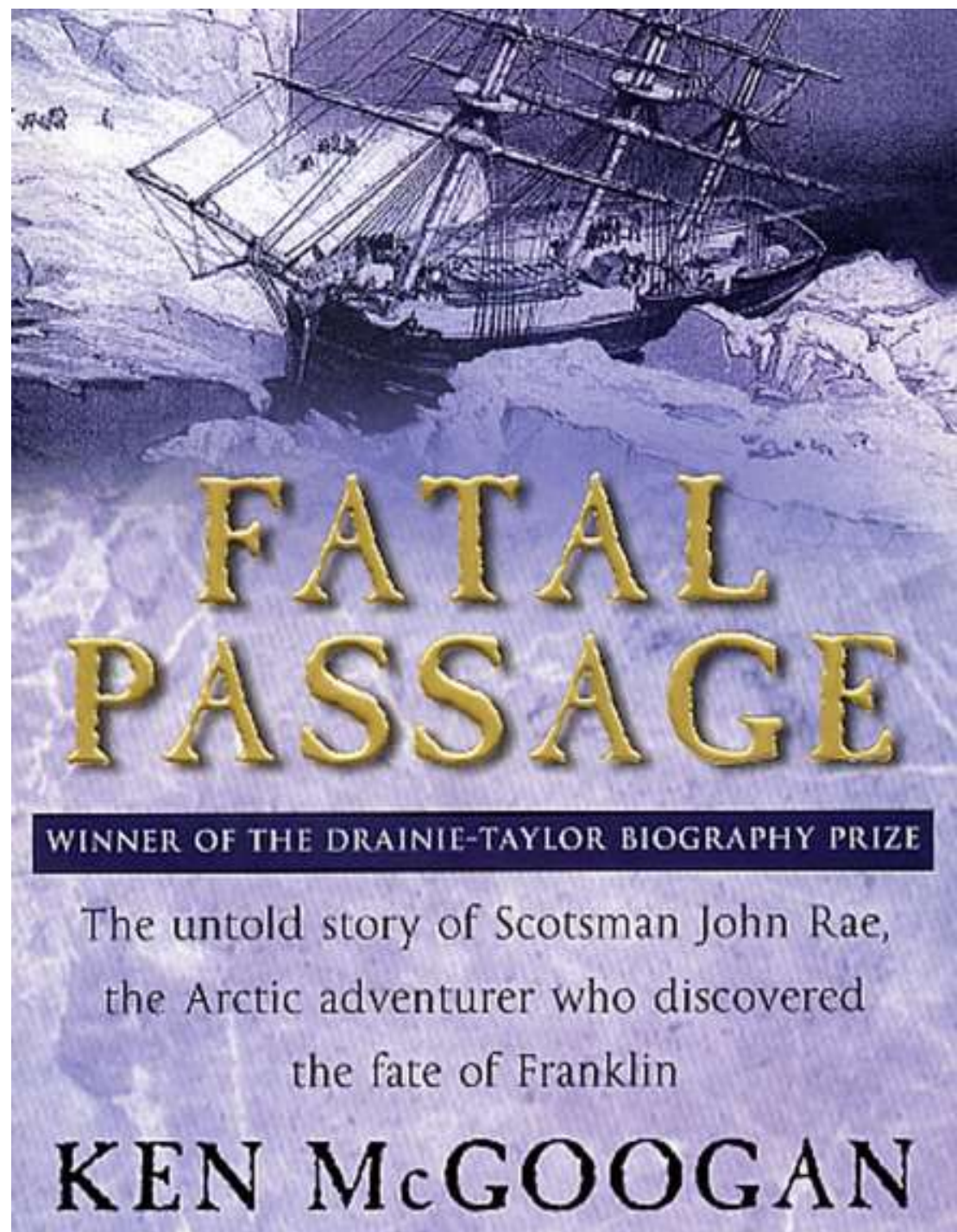
THE FATE OF THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION

*A fully updated edition of the amazing true story of a doomed
Arctic exploration - and of the secrets preserved in ice...*



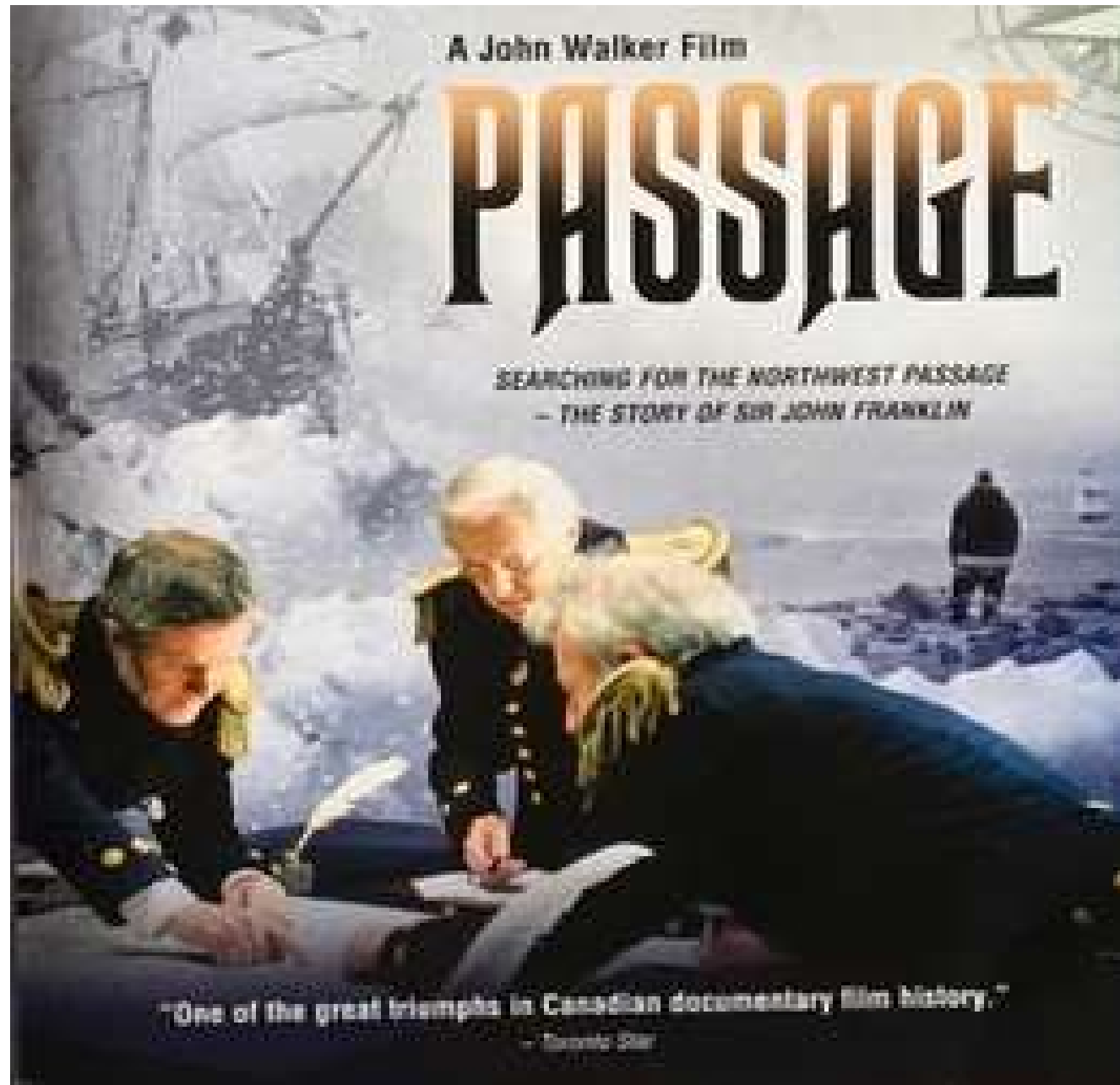
OWEN BEATTIE & JOHN GEIGER

First published 2001



Film based on
Ken McGoogan's
book

First screened
2008





**4, Lower Addison Gardens, Holland Park
2011**



Ken McGoogan places a plaque in 2012 at the site of John Rae's cairn overlooking Rae Strait

Statue of Dr John Rae

Sept 2013

Stromness waterfront

By North Ronaldsay sculptor
Ian Scott





By kind permission of The Dean & Chapter of Westminster
The President of The John Rae Society
· cordially invites

Linda Andrews

to attend the Dedication of a Memorial to
Dr John Rae MD LLD FRS FRGS
on Tuesday, 30th September 2014 at 4.00 pm
in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist, Westminster Abbey
followed by Evensong at 5.00 pm
and a Reception at The Scotland Office, Dover House, Whitehall, SW1A 2AU

Entrance : Great West Door,
Westminster Abbey from 3.30 pm
PLEASE ENSURE YOU BRING THIS
ADMISSION CARD WITH YOU

www.johnraesociety.com – Scottish Charities No. SC044463

RSVP: by 20th September, please to:
Mrs Anna Elmy, Bluebraes,
Finstown, Orkney, KW17 2PA
Em: aelmy@btinternet.com



Author Ken McGoogan with Plaque in Westminster Abbey