

The Transatlantic Cable - the Wire that Changed the World, a Valentia story

Leonard Hobbs

Chairperson

Valentia Transatlantic Cable Foundation



- **The Story**
- **The Foundation**
- **The Valentia Ensemble**
- **Project Endorsements**
- **UNESCO Inscription**
- **The Canadian Connection**
- **The “ 8th Wonder “ Exhibit**
- **The Innovation Hub at the Cable Station**
- **The Valentia Lecture Series**





1850:
Sir, one day you can tax it....

Michael Faraday to a sceptical William Gladstone, then British Chancellor of the Exchequer about the probability of use of electricity.

1835
"If the presence of electricity can be made visible in any part of the circuit, I see no reason why intelligence may not be transmitted instantaneously by electricity"

Samuel Morse, American Painter and Inventor

1861: Only 17 years after Morse developed his code, the telegraph network spanned as far as California across the US.

1861 – 1865 the American Civil War. The news of Lincoln's assassination takes 12 days to reach London.

13 September 2024



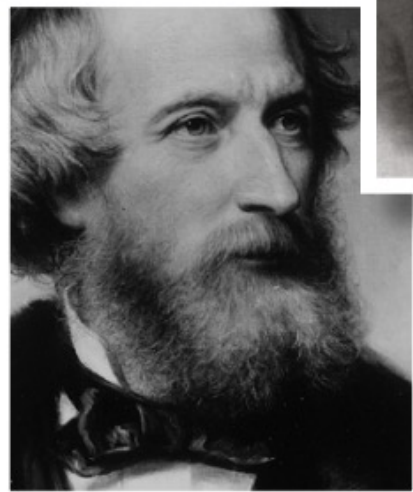
1819: Cyrus Field is born on Nov 30th, the 7th of the 8 sons of the Reverend David Field at Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

1833: At the age of 16 he heads for New York city to make his fortune in business.

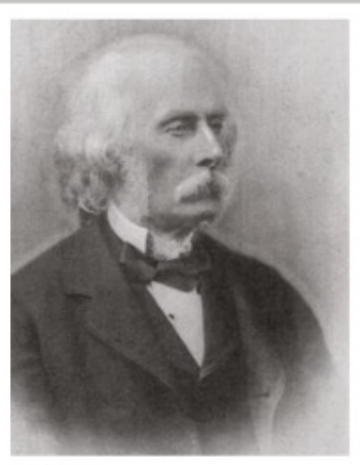
1854: At the age of 34, he is introduced to a Canadian engineer Frederick Gisborne by his brother Mathew. He envisages a transatlantic cable connecting the 'old' and 'new' worlds via Valentia in South Kerry.







CYRUS FIELD



SIR PETER FITZGERALD
KNIGHT OF KERRY



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THEIR FOREFATHERS, CYRUS FIELD IV
MEETS THE KNIGHT OF KERRY ADRIAN
FITZGERALD IN VALENTIA ISLAND 2013

1856: The first attempt fails

1858: Second attempt. Cable successfully laid. Major celebrations as Anglo worlds are connected BUT cable fails within a month.

1866: The fourth attempt, using the worlds largest ship, the “Great Eastern” , is a success and the time for transatlantic communication is reduced from 2 weeks to 2 minutes – a precursor to today’s internet



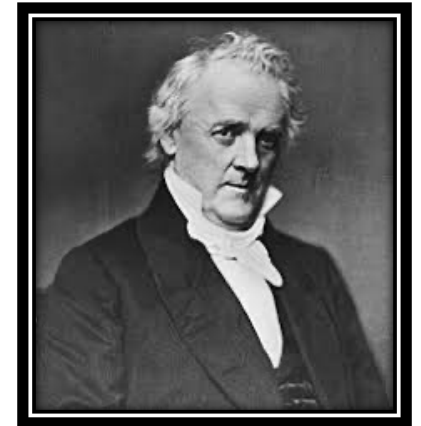


"The Queen is convinced that the President will join with her in fervently hoping that the electric cable, which now connects Great Britain with the United States, will prove an additional link between the two places whose friendship is founded upon their common interests and reciprocal esteem."

Queen Victoria

" May the Atlantic Telegraph, under the blessing of Heaven, prove to be a bond of perpetual peace and friendship between the kindred nations, and an instrument designed by Divine Providence to diffuse religion, civilization, liberty and law throughout the world "

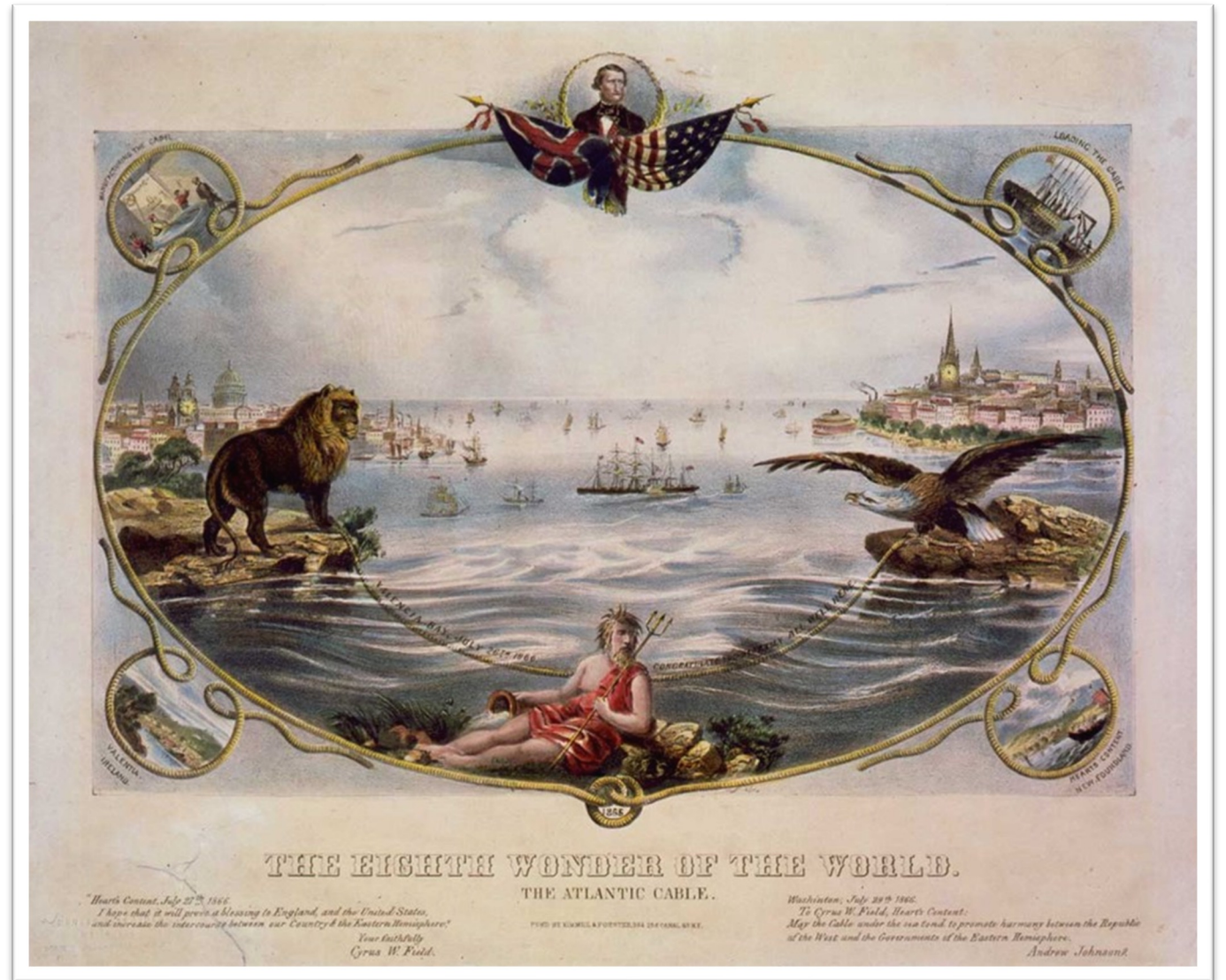
President James Buchanan



“Since the discovery of Columbus nothing has been done in any degree comparable to the vast enlargement which has thus been given to the sphere of human activity. The Atlantic Telegraph has undone the declaration of 1776 and has gone far to make us once again one people” The London Times 1858

“Gentlemen, I have just received a telegraphic message from a little village, now a suburb of New York,” – Cyrus Field, New York, Sept 1858

“I can imagine a poor mother in the west of Ireland ... sitting on the furthest crag that juts into the Atlantic, no longer contemplating that waste of water as a desolate wilderness which separates her from those she loves, but as a means of instant communication with them” Cardinal Wiseman, Catholic primate of England, in his speech honouring Charles Bright, chief engineer, at Dublins Mansion House, 1858





US Capitol Rotunda - the apotheosis of Washington - 1866





In May 2016, the Valentia Transatlantic Cable Foundation Board was established with the objective of the *“ raising and application of money and other resources to advance the scientific heritage of, and community development on, Valentia Island and to promote Valentia Island as a site which should be included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List “*

- Kerry County Council
- Munster Technological University
- Valentia Island Development Community
- Intel Ireland
- Aspen Grove
- BT Ireland
- Indigo
- Ireland Canada Business Association



Valentia Island

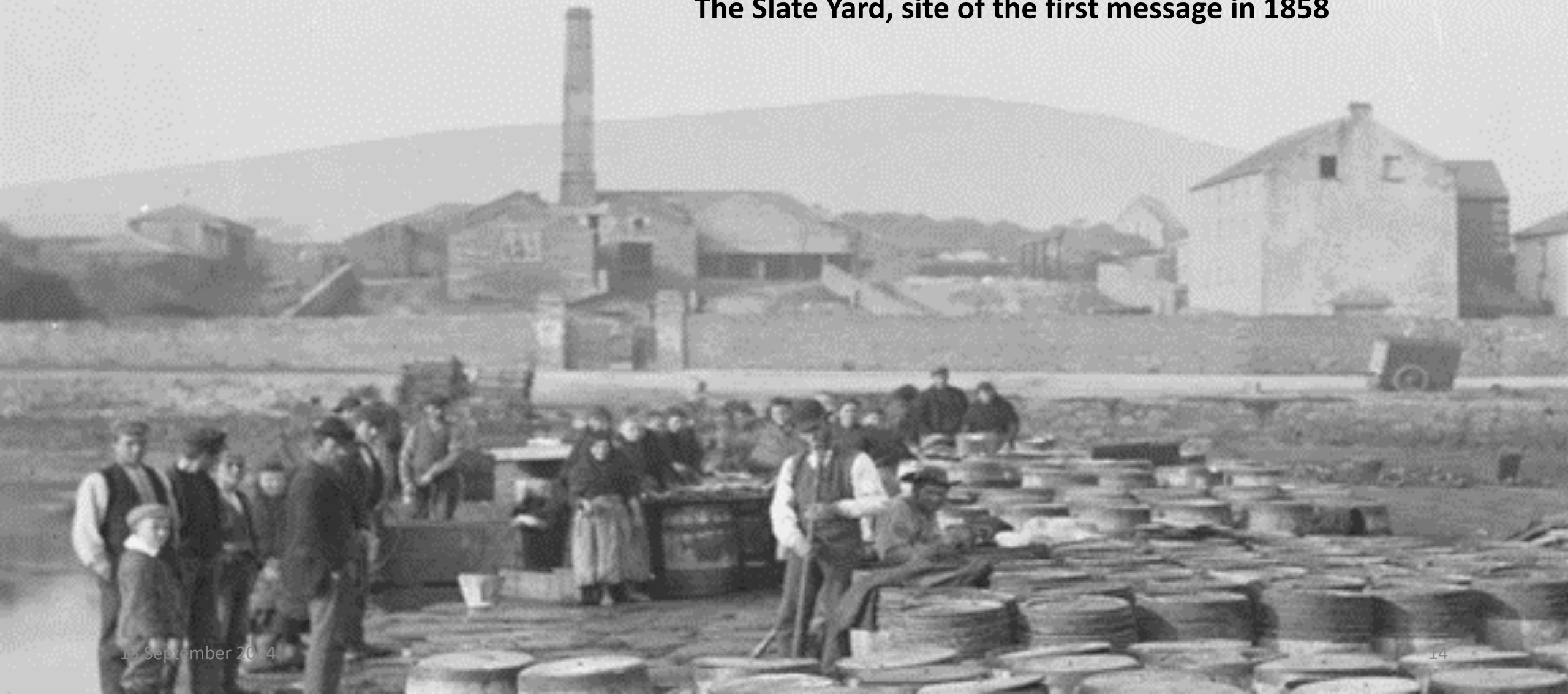
1 – Slate Yard, 1857-1859
(First Message)

2 – Cable Station, 1868-1966
Knights Town

3 – Cable Field, 1865-1868

Ensemble of Trans-Atlantic Cable Sites on Valentia Island

The Slate Yard, site of the first message in 1858





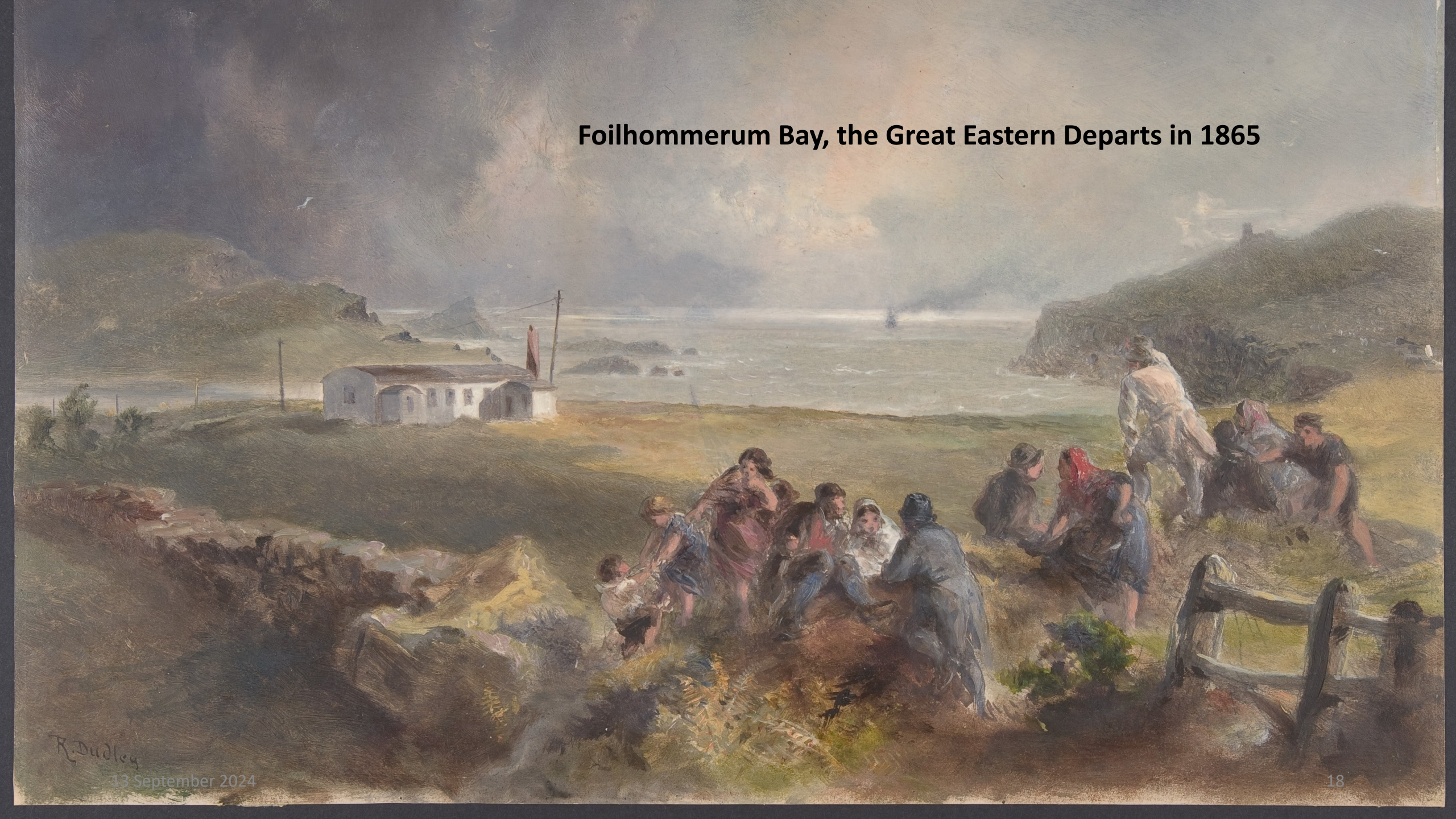
FIRST MESSAGE BUILDING
KNIIGHTSTOWN | VALENTIA ISLAND



The Cable Station and Houses at Knightstown, 1868



Foilhommerum Bay, the Great Eastern Departs in 1865



R. Dudley

13 September 2024



13 September 2024



The project was also endorsed in the National Development Plan published in February 2018 and again in October 2021



2018





Building
IRELAND
A decorative flourish is positioned below the word IRELAND.

2020



The Cable That Changed The World

Mon 12 August 2024

Documentary about the attempt to create a global communications network between Europe and America, and Belfast-born physicist William Tho...

[More ▼](#)





On July 21st 2022, we warmly welcomed the announcement from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD of the inclusion of the Transatlantic Cable Project on the Irish UNESCO World Heritage tentative list.

Currently working towards formal inscription as a transatlantic project, together with Canada, in 2029





September 2022

Minister Crocker from Newfoundland visited the Cable Station at Valentia where he signed an MOU with Kerry County Council to “*create a framework for cooperation and coordination between the two governments concerning the UNESCO World Heritage nomination for the Transatlantic Cable Ensemble*”



August 2023



13 September 2024

Contact: info@valenticable.com





13 September 2024

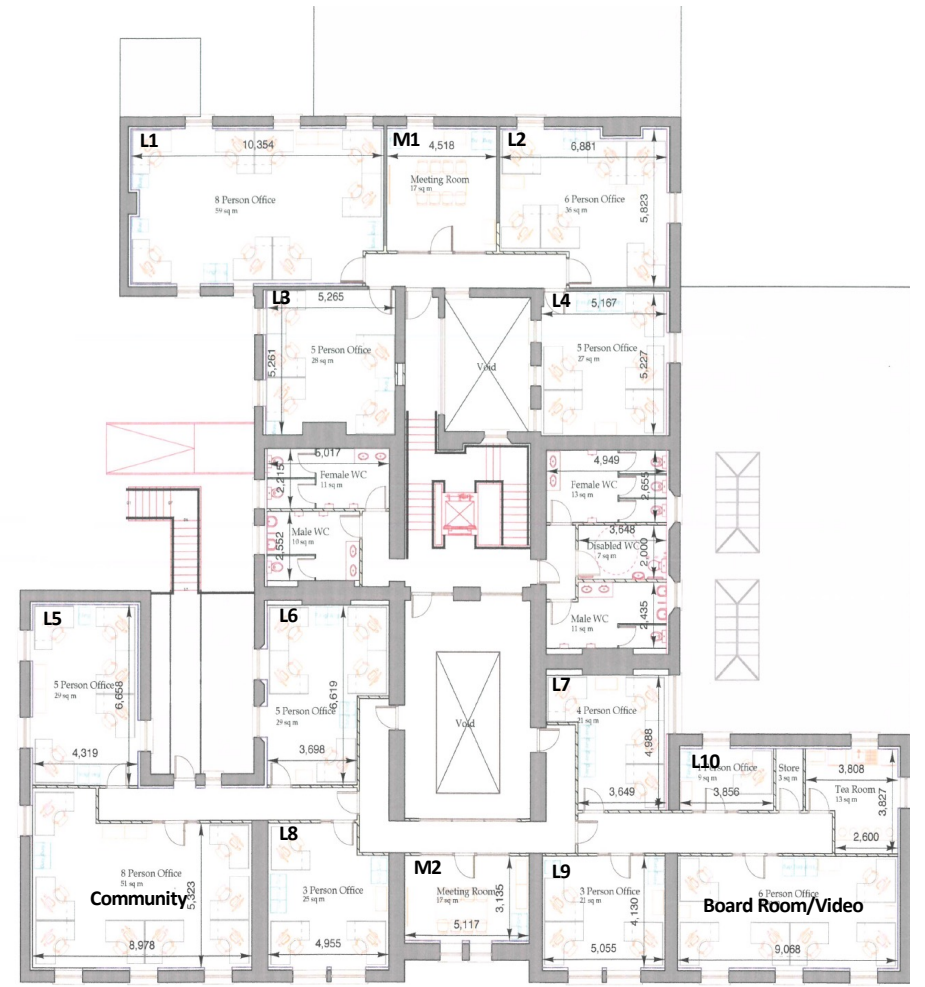
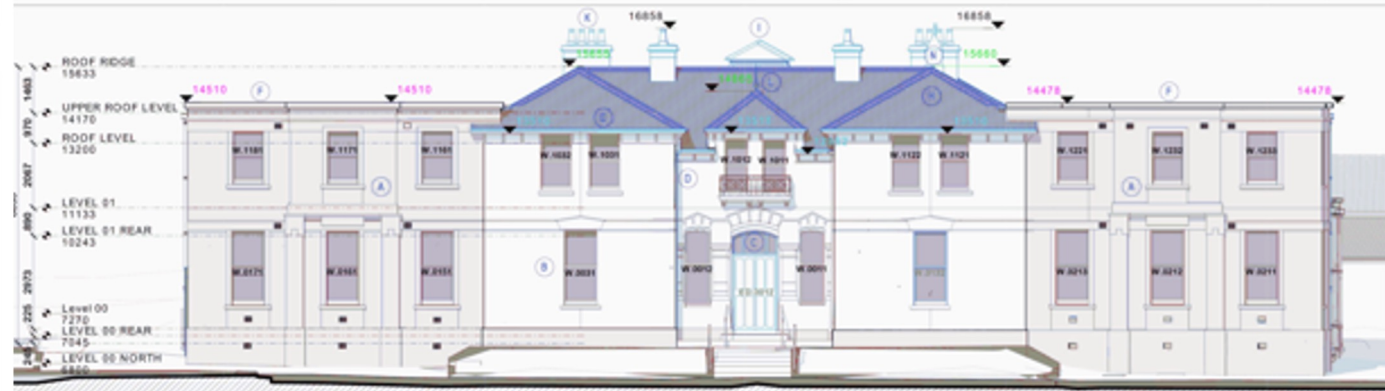
Contact: info@valenticable.com

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The “8th Wonder” Exhibit opens at the Cable Station, July 2022

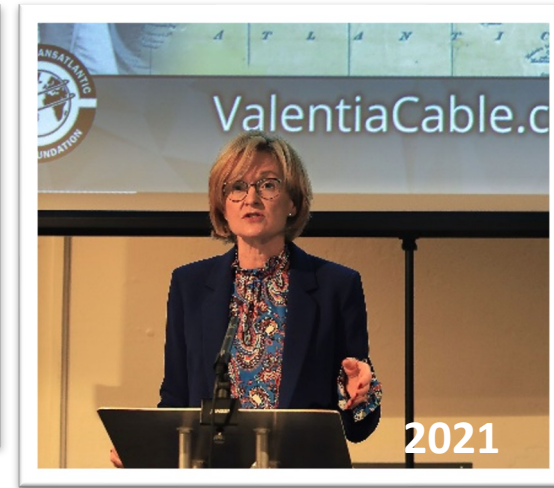
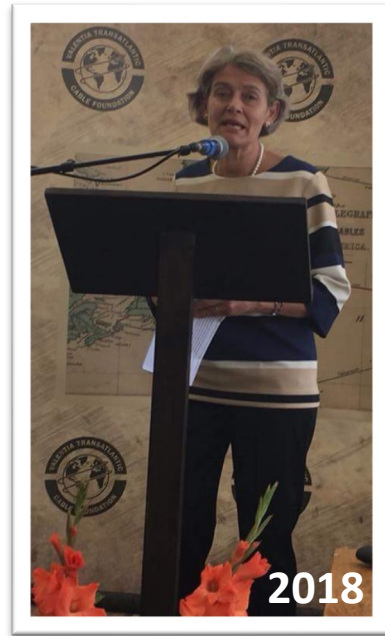


The Hub at the Cable Station.

- ***Bespoke office and collaboration space for entrepreneurs, businesses and the community***



The 'Valentia Lecture Series 2017 - 2022



▲ VALENTIA ISLAND SUBSEA CABLE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE SYMPOSIUM: 10-12 OCTOBER 2024

85 delegates – 3 days – 15 papers – 7 panels – 10 Countries
Ireland, US, UK, Australia, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Denmark, Canada, Holland



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

 **IDA Ireland**



AQUACOMMS



PHILIPLEE





- **Key Next Steps**

- **Progress the UNESCO bid with Canada**

- **Community Engagement**
- **Dossier preparation**
- **Joint Management Plans**

- **Site protection, restoration and refurbishment**

- *€10m required of which €1m is private*

- *For more information, please contact info@ValentiaCable.com*

- *Or to Leonard@LeonardHobbs.com*