

Extra! Extra!

Spring 1996

ISSN 1201-8333

Number 2

NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES

NEW ASSOCIATE

Jean-Guy Poitras has joined the Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Mr. Poitras is a professor at the Centre universitaire Saint-Louis Maillet and is active in historical and community associations in the Edmundston area. He has been an active genealogist for many years. With his father he recently published a history of the Poitras family on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poitras in Madawaska.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Associates of the Provincial Archives will be held at the Archives, the Bonar Law-Bennett Building, University of New Brunswick Campus, Fredericton, at 5:00 p.m. on 19 June 1996. All subscribers and supporters, as well as any interested members of the public are invited to attend.

ACQUISITION OF MICROFILM READER

A new initiative of the Associates, the value of which will be readily apparent to researchers at the Provincial Archives, is the acquisition of a new microfilm reader for public use. The availability of readers at the Archives has become a problem as older machines defy efforts to keep them in repair, researchers numbers increase, and more records are available on microfilm.

While the arrival of newer technologies, particularly digital imaging, have proven capability to greatly facilitate access by linking documents to index terms and even to improve on the quality of originals, microfilm remains the Archives primary medium for preservation and dissemination. There are a number of reasons for continued reliance on microfilm, the main one being the rapid pace of advances in imaging technology which requires regular upgrading of hardware and migration of records captured with one generation of equipment and technology to another.

The Archives has long had a policy of converting to film, as expeditiously as possible, records that are identified as being of importance to genealogists. This has permitted the wider

availability of records through film borrowed on interlibrary loan or placed in local libraries and archives. The transfer to microfilm is also an important conservation measure, permitting records that are fragile to be safely viewed by researchers, and minimizing wear and tear on original records that would be damaged by heavy use. A further advantage is that microfilm is easier to retrieve than original records; at the Provincial Archives researchers can retrieve their own microfilms.

Microfilm is produced at the Provincial Archives to an exacting standard, one of a small number of institutions in Canada with the expertise to do so. The Archives is called on frequently to advise on filming projects, to undertake work for other institutions, and to attempt to correct errors of the past which have resulted in poor quality film. While the Archives hopes soon to take advantage of new technologies that promise easier access to information, it is clear that conversion will be more readily realized from microfilm produced to preservation standards than from original records.

In the meantime, vast quantities of records housed at the Archives will continue to be used on microfilm making more readers a necessity. Ten new readers are required to meet the demand. The Associates are investigating several avenues that would assist in the purchase of these readers, including corporate sponsorship and partnerships with groups of users of the Archives. There is good news on this front. The New Brunswick Genealogical Society, the Capital Branch and the Saint John Branch, as well as several individuals, responded generously to the Associates subscription campaign. Their contributions, along with the proceeds from the donation box in the Archives foyer, were matched by the Provincial Archives and a new motorized reader was installed in the reading room in March. It bears a plaque noting those responsible for its acquisition.



Presentation of microfilm reader. From left to right: Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist; Victor Badeau, President, Capital Branch, NBGS; Joseph Day, Chairman, Associates of the Provincial Archives, Betty Sewell, Associate and member of Capital Branch, NBGS.

RESEARCH AT THE ARCHIVES

GETTING PAST DEAD ENDS by George Hayward

At least once in the course of research, every family historian finds a branch of his family tree which comes to an end. There is always someone whose parents cannot be identified. I have several of them. But some I have worked out, that is, got beyond this dead end. Here is how I resolved one such problem using resources at the Provincial Archives.

One of my paternal great grandmothers was Frances Nevers, a granddaughter of Samuel Nevers and Anna Burrell. Both were 'planters' from Massachusetts and were among the settlers who came to Maugerville, Sunbury County, in 1763. Samuel Nevers Sr. died there in 1808.

During the 1970s and '80s, I spent a lot of time searching for information on the Nevers family. One of the pieces of paper I used over the years was a handwritten genealogical chart showing four Nevers brothers and their numerous descendants. This chart had been donated to the Provincial Archives by a descendant. It showed my 4th great grandfather, Samuel Nevers Sr., and several of his children, one of whom was Samuel Nevers Jr.

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries Samuel Jr. lived in Maugerville. He was a fairly well-to-do farmer and business man, often holding mortgages on property in the community. At his death he left a large estate. All, or nearly all, extant official documents record his name as Samuel Nevers Jr. All of us who researched the family in the twentieth century accepted the genealogical chart and assumed that he was the son of Samuel Nevers Sr.

But we were wrong. The four brothers shown on the chart were really a father and three sons. It was true that Samuel Nevers Sr. had had a son Samuel Nevers Jr., who had been born and married in Maugerville. However, he removed from there shortly after his marriage. Then who was this other Samuel Nevers Jr. in all the records who lived there all of his life?

The answer was found in land records at the Provincial Archives. Samuel Nevers Sr. had a brother, Dr. Phineas Nevers, who had been an active rebel in Maugerville during the American Revolutionary War. When the government in Halifax sent a force up the Saint John River in 1777 to have all the inhabitants take an oath of allegiance to King George the III, Phineas refused, and fled to Machias, Maine. He later moved to Bangor where he died in 1785. His wife was Mercy, daughter of William Green and Sarah Sprague

In the Sunbury County Registry Office Records, Book 4, page 239 (microfilm F5544 at the Archives) we find a deed, dated 9 April 1788, conveying 40 acres of land in Maugerville, from Samuel Jr. of Maugerville, "in consideration of the duty and affection which I bear to my mother Mercy Nevers," of the same place and for the sum of 5 shillings. The Samuel Jr. of the land and other records was the son of Phineas and Mercy and not of Samuel Sr. and Anna.

The moral of this story is that family history researchers should not be quick to assume that old handwritten charts, or other secondary information contributed to the Archives over the years, is accurate. Neither should they assume that someone who has "Jr." appended to their name is necessarily a son of someone with the same given name.

ARCHIVES BENEFACTORS - Dr. Donald J. MacLeod

The Provincial Archives benefits in many ways from many benefactors. These people (and organizations) donate freely of their time and talents as well as their documentary collections. Many times their material donations have been accumulated through both skill and forethought. One such benefactor was Dr. Donald J. MacLeod.

Dr. MacLeod was a well know Frederictonian for many years. Originally from Ontario, he was educated at Queens (BA, 1921 and MA, 1922) and at Cambridge where he received a Ph.D. in plant pathology in 1938. In 1924, he began his scientific career as Senior Plant Pathologist with the Dominion Field Laboratory of Plant Pathology of the federal Department of Agriculture. He worked and lived at the 'experimental farm' in Fredericton until he retired in April 1960. He then began a second career as a librarian at the Law Society library, retiring from there in 1977. In 1979 he left Fredericton to live in BC with his daughter, Mrs. Shirley Miller. Dr. MacLeod died in 1990 at the age of 96.

Although Dr. MacLeod was well known in pathology and agriculture for his research and publications on potato viruses, he became a benefactor of the Archives because of his extra-curricular activities. He was an avid photographer and collector. In the 1930s, '40s and '50s, many attics and basements, the 'traditional' (but inappropriate) storage areas for inactive documents, were being cleaned out in Fredericton. Through a number of 'informants', Dr. MacLeod was made aware of papers going to the dump. He made arrangements with the dump keeper to collect any interesting old papers and over the years accumulated many papers which have since been returned to the province through the Provincial Archives.

The documents salvaged by Dr. MacLeod were varied and often of primary importance for understanding the history of the province. These included many documents such as the raising of militia units to protect the province against Fenian raids in the 1860s, the issuing of 'letters of marquee' to arm the schooner *Brunswicker* in the war of 1812, and the 13 August 1864 document from the Legislative Assembly appointing "*delegates to confer with delegates appointed by Nova Scotia and P.E. Island for the purpose of considering the subject of the union of the 3 provinces under one Government and Legislature.*"

But salvaging documents was not all Dr. MacLeod did to preserve our memory. In the 1940s he visited the interment camp in Ripples on a regular basis to show movies to the internees. After the war he returned with a camera to make a visual record of the area before it disintegrated completely. He recorded river drives, mill operations, and many festive occasions in Fredericton. And not unexpectedly, he photographed activities around the 'experimental farm' when horses were the primary means of power.

Dr. MacLeod was also active in the York-Sunbury Historical Society and, in his church, he contributed to the writing of a church history. At one time he was president of the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrews and, in 1926, organized the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrews Pipe Band. His donations to the Archives include home movies of social activities of this Society.

Since his death in 1990, Dr. MacLeod's salvaged treasures continue to be forwarded to the Provincial Archives from BC by his daughter. The people of New Brunswick will continue to benefit from the foresight, diligence and generosity of such people.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL RECENTLY MADE AVAILABLE AT THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

Court Records. These documents give not only a picture of the administration of justice but also a glimpse of the society that created them and the individuals involved. The following new series of records, or additions to existing series, were received from the judicial system.

- RS33/78 Court of Queens Bench: Judges Notebooks, 1972-1992, 70 cm. (on 28 reels of microfilm) Justice R.C. Stevenson
- RS42 Supreme Court Original Jurisdiction: Case Files. 1786-1814. Subject index by type of crime.
- RS64 Gloucester County Probate Court Records. 1827-1967. New Finding Aid only.
- RS429 Albert County Court Records. 1846-1971, 6.4 m. Additions, Criminal Cases, 1958-1961.
- RS430 Carleton County Court Records. 1824--1970, 6.2 m. Additions, criminal cases, 1958-1961.
- RS431 Charlotte County Court Records. 1786-1972. Additions, criminal cases, 1888-1972.
- RS433 Kent County Court Records. 1869-1973, 40 cm. Additions, criminal and civil cases, 1967-1972.
- RS437 Queens County Court Records. 1820-1951, 70 cm.
- RS759 Edmundston Judicial District: Criminal Appeals. 1979-1992, 60 cm.
- RS843 Mayor's Court of the City of Saint John. 1786, 8 files.

Registry Office Records. The registry offices in each county fall within the jurisdiction of the New Brunswick Geographic Information Corporation. The Provincial Archives has microfilm copies of the records for all counties prior to the formation of NBGIC, from 1785 to the mid-twentieth century. (Each county has a different termination date. These records are available on microfilm for **historical** research at the Archives but are **not** available on loan. New finding aids have been prepared to try to make the path through them easier. The collection consists of over 2200 reels of film.

Vital Statistics Branch Records. The period for legal closure has been shortened so that the following material is now available.

- RS141B Marriages, Provincial Registers **Index**. 1888-1898, transcription of approx. 1000 pages
- RS141C Deaths, Provincial Registrations. 1897 added, 3 microfilms.

County Council Records. Additions and revisions have been made to the following County Council Records Series. Except for series which have been completely rearranged, the figures and dates given are for the additions only.

- RS146 Albert County Council Records. 1917-1949, 20 cm.
- RS147 Carleton County Council Records. 1962, 2 cm.
- RS149 Gloucester County Council Records. 1831-1964, 27 m. plus 10 microfilms. Rearranged and revised
- RS150 Kent County Council Records. 1827-1964, 4 m. Rearranged and revised
- RS151 Kings County Council Records. 1815-1966, 10 m. plus 28 microfilms. Rearranged and revised
- RS156 Saint John County Council Records. 1786-1966 (primarily 1940-1966), 12.1 m. Revised
- RS160 York County Council Records. 1803-1812, 5 cm. Additions

Other holdings recently arranged and made available with finding aids.

- RS19 Credit Unions and Co-operatives Administration Records. 1939-1991, 30 cm.
- RS24 Legislative Assembly: Sessional Papers. 1786-1833, 11.4 m (156 reels of microfilm) Revised.
- RS26 Legislative Committee Records. 1859-1989, 3.3 m. (additions)
- RS28 Legislative Assembly: Clerk's Office Records. 1786-1948, 1 m.
- RS31 New Brunswick Police Commission Records: Published Annual Reports. 1977-1992, 4 cm.
- RS106 Records of the Deputy Minister of Crown Lands. 1909-1952, 5.8 m.
- RS121 New Brunswick Post Office Records. 1825-1867., 20 cm. New finding aid, some additions
- RS128 Records of the International Joint Commission on US-Canada Boundary Waters. 1953-1961, 10 cm.
- RS130 New Brunswick Resources Development Board Records. 1945-1952, 8 cm.

- RS139 Moncton Tuberculosis Hospital Records. 1949-1958, 3.6 m. Restrictions
- RS140 Centracare Saint John Records. 1836-1988, 90 cm.
- RS163 Emergency Measures Organization. 1959-1976, 15 cm. Additions.
- RS166 Research and Development Branch Records, (HRA). 1973-1976, 10 cm. Additions
- RS171 Hospital Services Division Records. 1969-1985, 1 cm. Additions
- RS178 New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Annual Reports. 1919-1993, 30 cm.
- RS184 New Brunswick Museum Records. 1938-1989, 20 cm. plus 45 microfilms. Addition of Oral History Program interview tapes and background files.
- RS195 Fundy National Park Land Assembly Records. 1947-1970, 30 cm. Addition of 1970 Public Hearings
- RS230 Records of the Advisory Council of the Status of Women, Annual Reports. 1974-1992, 10 cm.
- RS232 Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing, Annual Reports. 1978-1987, 2 cm.
- RS233 New Brunswick Transportation Authority Records, Annual Reports. 1972-1992, 2 cm.
- RS237 Office of the Ombudsman, Annual Reports. 1967-1992, 20 cm.
- RS240 Records of the Council of Maritime Premiers. 1972-1991, 30 cm. Publications
- RS272 Land Petitions: Current Series. 1831-1996, 93 m. New Finding Aid, (consolidation)
- RS460 Boys Industrial Home Records. 1893-1963, 1.3 m. Restrictions.
- RS551A Bonds of Administration. 1810-1950, 50 cm. plus 29 microfilms. New Finding Aid.
- RS581 Register of Justices of the Peace. 1863-1965, 5 cm. New Finding Aid
- RS662 Records Relating to New Brunswick Armorial Bearings, 1868-1992, 2 cm. Additions
- RS730 Dr. William F. Roberts Hospital School Records. 1958-1985, 70 cm.
- RS906 New Brunswick Forest authority Records. 1973-1980, 4 cm. Additions
- RS959 Representation and Electoral Boundaries Commission Records. 1991-1993, 1.5 m.
- RS988 Records of the Commission Inquiring into the Abuses at the New Brunswick Training School, (Miller Inquiry). 1992-1995, 1.4 m. Restrictions.

PRIVATE RECORDS

Church Records

- MC256 Kirk-McColl United Church (St. Stephen). 1784-1988, 15 microfilms. Additions
- MC1589 St. Paul's United Church (Sussex) Records. 1860-1994, 13 microfilms.
- MC1914 Tabusintac United Church Records. 1835-1991, 4 microfilms
- MC2265 Blackville United Church Records. 1898-1991 (some from 1840), 30 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2294 St. John the Evangelist, Johnville, Roman Catholic Church Records. 1861-1949, 15 cm. (microfilm)
- MC2295 St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church Records. 1927-1956, 12 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2320 Reformed Baptist Alliance Records. 1895-1970, 17 cm.
- MC2324 Waterville (Sunbury County) United Church Baptist Church Records. 1885-1993, 2 cm.
- MC2333 St. George's (Saint John) Anglican Church Records, 1825-1981, 50 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2334 New Canann United Church Records. 1857-1963, 2 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2340 St. William's (St. Martins) Roman Catholic Church Records. 1847-1947, 15 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2365 Highfield (Moncton) United Baptist Church Records. 1904-1993, 2.5 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2434 Gagetown-Grand Lake United Church Records. 1854-1994, 40 cm. (on microfilm)

WWI and WWII Documents

- MC1835 Joseph Enoil Michaud Records. 1936-1945, 90 cm.
- MC2392 John Walker, DFC, Pilot's Log. 1943-1946, 1 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2476 Crouse Brother: WWI letters. 1918-1919, 5 cm.
- MC2499 Kay Ruddick: Overseas Diary. 1946, 2 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2517 Robert V. Wilby: WWII Letters. 1940-1941, 1 cm.

Oral Histories

- MC1363 Molly Kool Carney Oral History. 1024-1991, Audio tapes plus transcriptions.
- MC1911 Willis Roberts Records. 1946-1991, 30 cm. plus 12 audio tapes. Oral history and personal papers.
- MC2100 Anna Miller Loane Oral History. 1971-992, tapes and transcriptions

Other Private Records

- MC51 Pickett Museum and Gallery Collection. 1980, 4 microfilms.
- MC201 New Brunswick Rifle Association. 1852-1990, 1.6 m. Additions
- MC249 Saint John Almshouse. 1843-1965, 2 m. plus 1 microfilm. Revised.
- MC626 Moncton Council of Women Records. 1920-1970, 65 cm. All media
- MC867 John H. Rhodes Records. 1882-1911, 10 cm. Albert County information.
- MC999 H. Davidson Pickett Accounts. 1898-1942, 1 microfilm
- MC1200 New Brunswick Protestant Orphans Home Records. 1877-1979, 5 cm plus 8 microfilms. Restrictions
- MC1339 Netherwood School Records. 1945-1984, 1.2 m. Additions
- MC1713 Alden R. Clark Records. 1836-1994, 2m.
- MC2003 John F. "Lofty" MacMillan Records. 1952-1990, 60 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2296 Ethal Crowther Likely Diaries. 1935-1979, 20 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2352 Corkum Genealogy. 1752-1992, microfilm.
- MC2362 Restigouche Genealogical Society Transcriptions. 1838-1987, 30 cm. (on microfilm). Church and cemetery records.
- MC2396 Queenstown Women's Institute Records. 1914-1990, 25 cm. (on microfilm)
- MC2465 *The Granite Town Greetings*. 1907-1913, 4 cm (on microfilm). Newspaper from St. George.

SUBSCRIBERS - PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Those interested in knowing about the Provincial Archives and in supporting its initiatives and on-going activities are invited to join the Subscribers of the Provincial Archives. Subscribers will receive a newsletter giving information on records acquired and on new finding aids which will facilitate their use, and information on the programs and activities of the Provincial Archives. Subscribers will be guests of honour at exhibits and special functions in Fredericton and around the province and will be given opportunities to become more involved with the Provincial Archives.

Subscribers will be invited to assist in initiatives that will preserve unique records and to make them more accessible, and to make the public more aware of the important materials held by the Archives.

If you wish to become a Subscriber, please complete the attached form and send it with a cheque for \$10.00 made payable to the Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Contributions in addition to this amount are welcome and tax receipts will be provided.

ASSOCIATES OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND

YES, I would like to assist the Provincial Archives by supporting the goals of the Associates of the Archives.

Member	\$10	Patron	over \$100
Sustaining Member	over \$10	Benefactor	over \$500

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ISSN 1201-8333

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Extra! Extra! is published twice yearly. It is compiled, edited and printed by the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB. Any inquiries about the newsletter should be addressed to Burton Glendenning, Editor, **EXTRA! EXTRA!**, c/o Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1.

The Associates of the Provincial Archives are members of the public who have volunteered to facilitate the activities of the Provincial Archives. They come from many walks of life and have diverse cultural interests. And in some way all had some connection with the Archives before this appointment. All are users of archives. The Associates for 1996/97 are: Elide Albert, Greg Byrne, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Ernie Forbes, Joe Knockwood, Fernand Lévesque, Mary Biggar Peck, Jean-Guy Poitras, and Betty Sewell.

Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist is the Archives advisor to the Associates. Fred Farrell, Manager of Private and Photographic Records is the Secretary-Treasurer.

CONTRIBUTORS

George Hayward is currently editor of *Generations*, the newsletter of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society. He is an avid family historian and is always available for genealogical consultation for Archives users.

ARCHIVES WEB SITE

The Archives URL is <http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives/index.hmt>. For the uninitiated this means the Archives is 'on the Web'. General information is available on the Archives, its holdings, hours of operation and its programs. Also available are general guides to holdings and genealogical guides for each county. Individuals contacting the Archives via the internet are asked to provide their mailing address because most of the Archival finding aids and all of the documents are not available through WWW. This 'site' is still in development and will, in the future, include publications dealing with records management and electronic records, and information on exhibits, finding aids and the Associates of the Provincial Archives.