



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

EXTRA! EXTRA!

AUTUMN 1997

ISSN 1201-8333

Number 5

NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES

The Associates have taken advantage of their two most recent meetings to host events for the public. In May in Saint John over 60 guests, connected with the Irish Famine 150 commemoration and other members of the public interested in the Archives, turned out to a reception and preview of the exhibit sponsored by the Famine Commemoration Committee and produced by the Provincial Archives. This reception followed the annual general meeting of the Associates where reports were received on the activities and highlights of the past year including the addition of equipment to Archives, the growing membership of the Associates, and the success of the campaign to acquire the Isaac Erb glass negatives. The Associates approved a contribution of \$10,000 to this campaign which brings it within \$34,000 of its goal.

The September meeting of the Associates was held at the Chatham Public Library in Miramichi City and concluded with a reception for the Miramichi Genealogical Society organized by Carmen Williston, Society President. Cyril Donahue, Associate Board member from the Miramichi outlined the objectives of the Associates and encouraged those who benefit from the Archives services to become members. The Provincial Archivist spoke of the province wide mandate and programs of the Archives. Allen Doiron, Archivist in charge of Cartographic and Audio Visual Records introduced the Archives film collection and presented historic footage on logging operations on the Restigouche and on the cities of Saint John, Moncton, and Bathurst.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

Each summer, visitors from all over North America, as well as overseas, select New Brunswick as a tourist destination. They are continuing a time-honoured practice: visitors have been making this voyage, or pilgrimage, for centuries. In the period of pre-recorded history, aboriginal peoples who lived inland traveled to the coast to harvest seafood for their survival. Several centuries ago they were met by European visitors come to harvest the riches of the sea to take back to their homelands for their survival. Later the visitors of European origin made this land their permanent home, overcame the hardships of the wilderness and summer infestations of insects in the woods and thrived.

Some members of the subsequent generations, however, left for greener pastures. Now it is their descendants who are returning to the lands of their ancestors. Some are coming out of curiosity and as tourists to see the land. Others come in search of their roots. Many of the family historians make the Provincial Archives a stop in their quest. Indeed, many make the Archives the headquarters for their research.

Because New Brunswickers who left the province in search of economic advancement went all over North America and the world, when their descendants return as family historians, they 'come from all over'. And the stories and reports they bring are both flattering and informative. During the

summer of 1997, on what was at least their second annual visit to New Brunswick and the Provincial Archives, the Brewers from New Zealand brought their own compliments and those of others they have met in their roots quest. They reported that while at a major genealogical conference in Australia, a speaker from Utah stated without reservation that the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick was the friendliest and most helpful archives he had ever visited.

In an earlier issue of the Extra! Extra!, it was reported that the New England Historic Genealogical Society had spent a large portion of their 1996 genealogical tour of New Brunswick at the Provincial Archives when they stopped for several days. This past summer, several of the tour members returned on their own from as far away as Oregon and California. Another couple flew from Dallas to Halifax, traveled by car to Fredericton, spent the week and returned home to Texas much the wiser about their ancestors and the land they left behind.

A couple from Florida sang the praises of New Brunswick hospitality. Although they spent only a few hours in the Archives and were fortunate enough to have had ancestors mentioned several times in published works, it was their visit to Bagdad that made their trip. They found the site of original grant made to their Loyalist ancestors. And although the old farm house was no longer standing, they met a neighbour who knew the house well and took the time to show these American visitors the foundation and the site of the out buildings. Initial contact with the Provincial Archives often leads to wider tourism exploration.

A woman and her son from Vermont was equally impressed with our general friendliness. The extent of her knowledge about her ancestors was that her father had 'worked with race horses' in Fredericton early in this century. After conducting some background research at the Provincial Archives, a tourist guide at City Hall, through her grandmother, put this visitor in touch with Chester Eatman, a longtime Fredericton horseman. From him she gained some background information and was able to narrow the area of her research. A two day visit stretched to a week of research, several books were purchased about the area, and she returned home with general and specific information about the life her parents left behind when they went to Vermont to improve their life.

A chief of a native band in Alberta was on an unusual quest when he visited. He was seeking to determine the geographical course of a journey of discovery undertaken by members of his band about the turn of the century. The oral history is that about 80 men left Alberta to find the eastern shore of the land they inhabited. Although many of the 80 chose not return, this man's grandfather was one of those who did go home again. And now the band was seeking information on where their deceased band members had visited and what became of those who stayed here. Archeologists tell us that visitors from the Ohio region had contact with the Malicetes several millennia ago; and it seems the treks eastward have never ceased.

The wealth of information we have never fails to impress visitors. In October, a couple from Spokane, Washington made a two-day visit a four day visit. And early in the month, a long retired chemist, a graduate of UNB, with his son, a lawyer, both now from Vancouver, spent several days researching legal cases and crown land records for the first decade of the twentieth century to piece together information on major episodes of the lives of their ancestors.

FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITS

Again this year, the Archives participated in the New Brunswick Highland Games , held annually in Fredericton on the grounds of the soon-to-be-re-opened Government House. In addition to a display of Scottish genealogical material, the Archives mounted a small exhibit of photos with a Scottish theme and gave a workshop of researching Scottish ancestry.

As reported in Extra! Extra!, No.4, the exhibit, *In the Wake of Dark Passage: Irish Famine Migration to New Brunswick 1845 - 1852*, opened in Saint John in June. Since then, this exhibit has traveled to the Irish Festival at Miramichi and the Johnville Picnic and been mounted at the Provincial Archives from 20 July to 16 October. It then traveled to Moncton to the NBTA annual meeting and to Saint Stephen for a week at the St. Croix Public Library.

COUNCIL OF ARCHIVES NEW BRUNSWICK

Over the past decade the archives councils of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have held joint conferences every 2 or 3 years. Sites of previous meetings include Moncton, Sackville, Amherst, and Tatamagouche. This year Charlottetown, the Public Archives and Record Office of PEI, and the Archives Council of Prince Edward Island hosted archivists from all corners of the Maritimes to discuss a variety of topics that face the archival profession. Under the umbrella **Bridging Past and Future**, sessions presented included:

1. Fundamental principles of arrangement.
2. Retrospective Descriptions to RAD standards.
3. Issues encountered with donors.
4. New copyright legislation and implications for archives.
5. Regional initiatives.

Several staff members from the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick participated in the two days of sessions with Marion Beyea and Fred Farrell among those presenting papers. Sharing the experiences and insights of archivists in the region is always an energizing event and every session included lively exchanges from the perspectives of archivists working in community, religious, educational, and provincial archives. Thought provoking presentations followed by questions and comments often carried over into coffee breaks and meals, as attendees explored every aspect of the topics as pertaining to past and future effects on archives in the region.

The session on regional initiatives was particularly stimulating as the development of union lists, the status of the Atlantic Canada subject headings, privacy legislation, and archival use of the internet were discussed in the context of what benefits could accrue from an inter-provincial approach. Such sessions, and this one is no exception, act as catalysts for innovative action that will help archives in the Maritimes to improve service to their clients.

A LOOK BACK AT THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES by Robert F. Fellows

"We must provide for our rich heritage and for the protection and development of our historical resources". Thirty years ago these words were part of the March 1967 Budget speech that led to the creation of an Historical Resources Administration on 1 May 1967 with Dr. George MacBeath as head.

One of the first concerns was the creation of the Provincial Archives to be housed in the former Bonar Law-Library Building on the University of New Brunswick campus. While extensive alterations were made to the building to improve storage conditions, the work of locating, sorting, packing and transporting government records commenced. From May to September, Don Worden, the late Mike O'Rourke, and Harold DeCoursey began removing records crammed into a forest of beams and joists in the attic of the Legislative Building, putting them in boxes while trying to maintain some semblance of order. In temperatures that sometimes reached 50⁰C, they moved some 1,200 boxes of records down seventy-six steps of a broad spiral staircase, loaded them into a truck and transported them to the 'new' archives building on campus.

The preliminary processing of these documents was the next step in making them available to researchers. This was done by a number of students; and this is where I entered the picture. I had enrolled at UNB as a third-year history major and Margaret, my wife, and I had moved to Fredericton in the fall of 1967 just ahead of the first provincial archivist, Hugh Taylor. Fellow history students were already working at the Archives but when I spoke to Don Worden I was rejected!

A month later, my second attempt to obtain employment was more successful. While Margaret and I were taking a lunch break from our Christmas jobs at the post office, we met Don at KFC. We struck up a conversation, and I told him that after I graduated I hoped to enter archival work as a profession. I had not the foggiest idea of what was involved but I did know that I needed a job. We were expecting a baby and Margaret would soon no longer be able to work. Don said that there were new openings and if I was interested I could start work the following Monday. I was, and I did!

When I started at the Archives, all was chaos. In the vault, a new ventilation system was being installed and students were adjusting the shelves to hold document boxes instead of books. The search room was being refurbished with a new carpet. On the second floor offices were being made for the staff of the Research and Development Branch, the Mactaquac Historical Program and the Provincial Archives, all components of the Historical Resources Administration who were to share the building. At first we were all in what became the exhibition room with tall book cases being used to create small offices. There were two work tables upon which the student assistants sorted records according to various departments. I really enjoyed the work and for me it was an ideal job. I could work an hour or two between classes, in the evenings, and on weekends and the pay of \$1.40 an hour was a fortune to a student!

I have lasting impressions of our first provincial archivist. In his slightly rumpled lab coat, with a collar that would never lie flat, gray hair that was always a little messed, a yellow pencil stuck behind his ear, substantial glasses, a British accent and the look of an absent minded professor, Hugh was the stereotypical archivist. Cobwebs in his hair, a nearby book chained to a table, and a dark dingy castle tower in which to work would have completed the picture! One day he walked by my work station while I was reading a document upon which there was no date, he picked it up, raised it to the light, said "1833", and walked off. Was I impressed! How did he know that? Don laughingly explained about water marks in the old paper. There was, indeed, a lot for the new student to learn about archives - and the archivists' sense of humour!

In that hectic first year, the initial renovations were completed and the HRA staff moved upstairs to their new offices. But without air conditioning, the building in summer was especially warm. One hot day, to protest the uncomfortable working conditions, David Webber, director of Research and Development Branch (in HRA), came to work in a tie, slacks and shoes - but no shirt! It was not long before Dr. MacBeath noticed the unusual attire, and, from his office, bellowed "DAVID! GET DRESSED!" The Archives staff had a better time of it because on hot days we could work in the cooler stacks. After renovations in the stacks were complete my work area was located on the ground floor in the stacks - the coolest place in the building! I had lots of visitors on hot summer days!

During this early period, the provincial archives staff consisted of Hugh Taylor, Don Worden, a secretary, and from five to fourteen casual staff. Linda Shepherd came on as an archivist on 1 July 1968, and Maria Vilimova was hired to work in documents repair. The Microfilm Service, from the Department of Natural Resources, and the Records Centre from the Department of Public Works were transferred to the Provincial Archives on 1 April 1968, a transfer which coincided with the passing of the Archives Act.

In addition to those documents removed from the attic of the legislative building, some of our acquisitions that first year were from government offices moving into the Centennial Building and from court houses and other repositories of county council and other county and municipal record. The task of moving records fell to students possessing strong backs, and I got to go on entirely too many acquisition forays. In fact, if I wore a white shirt to work, I could almost guarantee that I would be called upon to lug records from hot dirty attics or damp musty basements somewhere in the province. On one of our return visits to the legislative building attic, hot and sweaty, carrying boxes down the long stairs, we met a man and his ten-year old son. We were sweaty and hot and the soot in the attic left us rather dirty. On seeing us, the father admonished, "See, son, if you don't get an education - this is what you will be doing for the rest of your life".

On one of our numerous "field trips" to pick up records Don and I went to the Provincial Hospital (Centrecare) in Saint John. I was left me alone in the basement with instructions to keep my back to the wall, keep my eyes open, and stay put. When approached by a well groomed gentleman, neatly dressed in a shirt, tie, slacks and a clean white lab coat and asked my business, I explained that I was from the Provincial Archives and was there to pick up some records. At that moment Don returned with a shabbily dressed gentleman with a head of long hair looking as if he combed it by inserting a wet finger in a light socket, I was told that I was talking to an inmate and Don was with the doctor! When we made future visits to that institution, I never left Don's side.

Although these were the 1960s, a period seen today as having been very flush, getting money to hire casual staff was difficult. Like today, we relied on project funding to hire students. And it seemed that each year as March approached, the Archives ran short of funds and the students were let go, one by one, based on seniority. Fortunately for me there was a rapid turnover of the student staff. Ones with weak backs were let go first, and those with sound minds left of their own accord. I was among those who were retained. This is a good thing because our son Scott was born 15 September 1968 and I really, really needed the job! One year, as funds were fast running out, the students were kept on with monies intended to pave the Archives parking lot. I feel a bit guilty knowing that thirty years later the parking lot is still not paved, and that it might, in part, be my fault!

We worked long hours the first years to put order to the records of the supreme, county, and probate courts, the legislative assembly, and the departments of education and natural resources as quickly as possible. Our research numbers multiplied. In 1968/69 we had 20 researchers and in 1969/70, 170 researchers signed in.

The work was very enjoyable and there were many humorous moments, usually provided by Hugh. He always had a pencil behind his ear as he processed collections; and he sometimes forgot to remove it when he left the building. Occasionally he could be seen walking home with a pencil behind each ear. The first time he saw a can of soda pop with a pull-tab opener, Hugh looked at the tab and the opening in wonder and asked: "Is there one on the bottom?" Before anyone could respond, he turned the can over to check, and promptly poured some of the contents in his lap! Hugh had very bad eyesight and once when his glasses were being fixed, I was standing at the front desk as he walked by. I said good morning to him and he turned to a nearby pillar and returned my greeting!

With the initial renovations completed, we mounted a photographic exhibition to mark the official opening on May 29, 1968. For this we displayed over 1390 works from the George T. Taylor Collection.

As the work on textual collections continued, the late Fred Phillips joined the staff to take care of the photograph collections. Fred had a bad back and each day at noon he would lie on the floor of his office to give his back some relief. One lunch hour while covering the public service area at the front desk, I happened through on my way downstairs and heard a disembodied voice say "Can I help

you?" But could see no one. "I am down here" said the voice. I looked over the counter and there was Fred laying on the floor, neatly dressed in a suit and tie, his hands folded peacefully on his chest. It was from this position he had been helping visitors! Is it any wonder that one researcher in thanking us for our assistance noted that he had received wonderful service and had never been in an institution where the staff possessed such a unique blend of helpfulness, knowledge, and "just a slight touch of insanity!"

In 1969 we opened our second exhibition, this on the history of wood industries of New Brunswick. One of the displays contained a log with a mark of the "Broad Arrow", the mark put in tall straight trees in the forest to reserve them for use by the Royal Navy. When asked to carve an arrow into the tree, I was instructed to make it large enough for people to see. Not knowing how big it should be, I carved about an eight inch arrow in the tree stump and was quite proud of my work. After the display was opened we were told that these marks were on the end of a hammer and it would have taken a mighty BIG hammer and an awfully BIG surveyor to put an eight inch arrow in a tree. The log was quickly removed!

In 1969, I graduated in history and began post-graduate studies in the fall. But another event probably more significant to me that fall was the departure from the Archives for Ontario of Linda Shepherd, a staff archivist. A position became vacant! Shortly after, I was passing through the receiving room where Hugh was working on a collection. He informed me of the job opening, and asked if I was interested. When I said yes, he said he would start the paperwork the next day. Thus I joined the permanent staff on 26 September 1969 and remained there until retiring on 31 December 1997.

ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIAL

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

RS9 **Index To The Calendar Of Extant Documents From Executive Council: Cabinet Meeting Records, 1843-1883.** This is both a name and subject index. Some of the subjects dealt with by the Cabinet include appointments and resignations, land, ships and shipping, health, penitentiaries, railways, roads, and fishing, among others.

RS55 **Court Of Equity\ Chancery Case Files, 1785-1912, 49 metres + 20 microfilms.** This is a nominal index to all parties involved as litigants in these case files. This particular series contains many cases relating to estates, guardianship of infants, property disputes, lunacy, and bankruptcy.

RS116 **Records Of The Chief Superintendent Of Education, 1896-1955, 47 metres.** This series provides material on schools, vocational training, the impact of the two World Wars on the education system, school inspectors, teachers, and curriculum, as well as other topics relating to education.

RS626 **Department Of Transportation Administration Records, 1966-1990, 3.3 metres.** This series includes records relating to motor transport, air transport, railways, ports, and telecommunications.

RS658 **Right Of Way Branch Records, (Letters, A to K only), 1970-1987, *volume*.** This series of records contains material relating to Department of Transportation rights of way. As such it contains information on roads and land expropriation. The nominal index currently available contains only those names beginning with "A" to "K".

RS814 **School Attendance Registers, 1873-1993, microfilm only.** This finding aid provides a listing of all school attendance registers held by the Archives on microfilm. They are listed alphabetically by County.

RS966 **Heritage Branch Records**, 1973-1988, 3 metres. This series of records contain information on New Brunswick historic sites and buildings , museums, historical societies, general history, and heritage conservation.

RS1008 **Records Of The Administrator Of Estates**, ca. 1958-1978, 3.5 metres. These records contain information concerning those persons who were committed to institutions for medical reasons and who were not deemed competent to administer their own affairs. The Administrator of Estates was appointed to be responsible for their financial and other properties. This finding aid lists those persons born more than 100 years ago and those having no identifiable date of birth.

PRIVATE RECORDS

MC80/2163 ***My Beloved Poilus*** by Agnes Warner (Saint John, 1917). The author of this book was a Saint John native who was working in France as a nurse when World War 1 broke out. She remained there, writing letters home describing her nursing work and the ravages of the war. Excerpts from her letters were included in this publication, intended to enlist American support for the war effort. The book makes the author out to be American to raise greater support.

MC225 **St. Paul's United Church**, Fredericton, 1823-1989, 2.9 metres + 1 microfilm. Addition records of various groups and committees were received and the finding aid revised.

MC450 **Emily Pauline Johnson Collection**, 1900, 1993, 1995, 0.5 cm. Main item is a handbill advertising E. Pauline Johnson's recital probably in Fredericton; also articles about her and a commemorative bookmark.

MC617 **Moncton Area Churches**, ca. 1876-1978, 10 cm. Includes news clippings and programmes of events from many Moncton area churches.

MC2450 **Passamaquoddy Chapter Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire**, 1919-1995, 30 cm. Several small items from formation in 1919, but the minutes only begin in 1941.

MC2641 **New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society Minutes**, 1927-1937.

MC2659 **Queens County Cemeteries**, Camp Gagetown Area, 57 pages. This compilation was prepared by staff at CFB Gagetown; a copy was made available to the Archives by Rick Corbett.

MC2678 ***The Gospel Standard***, 1937-1983, microfilms. This is the official publication of Primitive Baptist Church.

MC2679 **Albion Terrace Hotel Register**, Sackville (?), 1915-1920, 5 cm.

Extra! Extra!

Autumn 1997

ISSN 1201-8333

Number 5

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, PO Box 6000, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1, or e-mail provarch@gov.nb.ca

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 have experience using the documentary holdings of the Archives. The Associates for 1996/97 are: Elide Albert, Greg Byrne, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Ernie Forbes, Joe Knockwood, Robert Kelly, Fernand Lévesque, Mary Biggar Peck, 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

All contributions for this issue were prepared by past and present members of the staff of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

ARCHIVES WEB SITE

The Archives URL is <http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives/index.htm>. 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 as well as information on the Associates of the Archives. 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 and finding aids.