



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES

The Associates took advantage of their December meeting to introduce themselves to the Minister of Supply and Services, the Hon. Peter LeBlanc. Mr. LeBlanc was appointed in July 1997 to this portfolio, which includes responsibility for the Provincial Archives. President Joseph Day outlined the background and objectives of the Associates, and the activities in which they have been involved. He also remarked upon the need of more space for the Archives.

The holdings of the Archives have grown exponentially in the 30 years since its establishment. The building in which the Archives was originally established reached its maximum capacity several years ago. Climate-controlled space with freezer vaults for storage of fragile film is an urgent requirement.

The Minister indicated that his Department has a number of options under consideration and he affirmed the importance of finding adequate space for the Archives collections.

DONATION OF THE CAPITAL BRANCH OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

At its November 5 meeting, Capital Branch of the Genealogical Society presented Provincial Archivist Marion Beyea with a cheque for \$2570 for the work of the Associates. The funds have been used for the purchase of an additional new microfilm reader, with the Provincial Archives sharing in the cost. This boost brings the Associates nearer its goal of placing 10 new readers at the Provincial Archives.

The funding was realized from a series of workshops initiated by Betty Sewell, member of the Board of Directors of the Associates of the Provincial Archives, which she and Victor Badeau of the Capital Branch of the NB Genealogical Society organized.



The president of the Capital Branch, Jack Ker, is seen here with Provincial Archivist, Marion Beyea.

Sessions were presented on: Court Records; records relating to New Brunswick's land granting process; publishing family history; and paleontology. The workshop proceeds of \$500 were topped up with a generous \$2070 donation from the Branch's own account.

PRESENTATION TO PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES BY SOUTH EAST BRANCH, NEW BRUNSWICK GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

A cheque for \$1000 was presented recently to Joseph Day, President of the Associates of the Provincial Archives by Judi Berry Steeves, Chair of *Ancestor Quest*. The contribution represents proceeds from *Ancestor Quest's* international genealogical workshop hosted by the South East Branch of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society in August 1997 which attracted registrants from many parts of Canada and from the United States.

“The Genealogical Society of New Brunswick is one of the strongest allies of the Associates”, said Mr. Day, “in its mission of supporting and promoting the work of the Provincial Archives.”

“The Associates are interested in making the rich resources of the Provincial Archives accessible to researchers and groups from everywhere in New Brunswick and beyond. One of our current projects is the placement of additional microfilm readers at the Provincial Archives to meet the needs of the growing numbers who visit the Archives every day to do research. A strong component of that group are genealogists who come from all over New Brunswick and other parts of Canada and the U. S.”, Mr. Day continued.

Judi Berry Steeves, one of the organizers of *Ancestor Quest 97*, is seen here presenting the cheque to Joe Day, President of the Archives Associates. They are flanked by David Fyffe, President of the South East Branch, and Marion Beyea, the Provincial Archivist.



Mr. David Fyffe, President of the South East Branch concluded that the Branch feels that “the donation is an important indication of support for the Provincial Archives, an institution which is key to meeting the research needs of the family historian.”

ISAAC ERB PHOTO COLLECTION - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

ISAAC ERB was a professional photographer whose career spanned more than 50 years, from 1870 to 1924. Whether in the studio or on location, Erb's camera captured the many facets of contemporary Saint John, and his work led him also throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Maine. The composition of his portraits and commercial photographs show the artistic temperament of the 19th century cameraman. This personal style continued well into the 20th century. His attention to detail and unique perspective on his subjects contributed in equal part to his success in a business marked by transiency and brevity. By the end of his career he had

produced more than 12,000 images, all of which he meticulously recorded in his log book. The approximately 3,400 extant glass negatives make up the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the Maritimes, and one of the best in Canada.

The photographs indicate that Erb had a steady and varied stream of work commissioned by local and national clients. Whether for individual commercial establishments, the stereoview market, advertising, or commemoration, his work was of high quality, with clear definition and interesting composition.

The collection provides an invaluable record of the social and general history of New Brunswick, and Saint John particularly, enhanced by the immediacy of the photograph, the wide variety of subject matter, and the information supplied through rich detail. As well, the negatives are valuable on aesthetic grounds, revealing the photographer's choices in the way he posed and placed people, the way he allowed for occasional spontaneity in the images, his craftsmanship, compositions and use of light. They constitute a unique photographic treasure.

The plates and prints fall roughly into the following subject categories: commerce and industry; city and town views; harbour and docks; city and country homes, cottages and resorts; rural views; military; interiors of homes and businesses; Saint John Exhibition; boats and ships; groups and individual portraits; public and large commercial buildings; and miscellaneous scenes — bridges, railroads, ice jams, churches, social events, and shop windows. These images of turn of the century life are probably the largest unified collection to document this most significant era.

The Erb photographs depict elegant homes, prosperous streetscapes, and burgeoning industrialism, and were intended to illustrate the region in a positive way for entrepreneurs, businesses, and tourists at a time when Saint John was a busy port with links around the world. Erb also recorded a wide assortment of human concerns and activity, including an early kindergarten, dramatic productions, news carriers, labourers, school groups, athletic events, and housing conditions.

The images also illustrate the development of commercial photography and the photographer's craft. Among the various techniques that Erb explored are: the use of natural light, sometimes with a reflector, in the studio and on location; use of the flash, sometimes balanced with ambient light; night photography; keen use of backgrounds and arrangements; contrasting groupings of people in the same location; the transition from photographs that document commerce to those that promote it; 19th century pictorials, and views reminiscent of the modern picture postcard.

Over the past two years, the Associates have been raising funds to purchase the photographic glass negatives created by Issac Erb. The fund raising campaign reached its goal just as the year. A further report on this collection will be forthcoming.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

Jerry Fradsham of the Provincial Archives staff marked two milestones in December, 1997, his 40th birthday and the 10th anniversary of his employment at the Archives.

A client of the "Jobs Unlimited" program, Jerry has assisted at the Archives in a variety of ways over the decade. His principal tasks these days are preparing paper for recycling and reshelving microfilm.

"Jerry Fradsham is one of our agency's longest placements", said a proud Brad Slauenwhite, Executive Director of "Jobs Unlimited", speaking at a noon-hour reception honouring Jerry on December 8th.



Jerry with Bob Fellows who was his supervisor until he retired in December 1996.

Colleagues at the Provincial Archives, representatives of the Department of Supply and Services, including deputy minister Stephenson Wheatley, and friends from the community celebrated the joint anniversaries with Jerry, organized by Lucy Jardine.

Marion Beyea presented Jerry with a gift on behalf of Archives staff, and spoke warmly of Jerry's contribution to the Archives. Luncheon refreshments were served, including a birthday cake, marking the special event and taking note of Jerry's sweet tooth!

Jerry has made many friends during his Archives career, and his sense of humour and fun make him a valued member of the staff of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, as Marion Beyea noted.

VOLUNTEERS

Since 1975, the Provincial Archives has utilized to our great advantage the time and expertise of volunteers. Some volunteers worked for us between jobs, others committed a scheduled amount of time over a number of years. They become a regular part of our operation. Their contributions are immeasurable. Unfortunately, sometimes they slip from our 'employ' without recognition. But not this time.

For the past decade the Provincial Archives has been very pleased to have Sara Jacobson as a volunteer Archives Assistant. The Archives was only one of a number of Fredericton institutions and organizations to which Sara contributed her time and knowledge, some for over a quarter of a century. At the Provincial Archives she had worked on calendaring the records of the Executive Council from its inception to early twentieth century. Sara's work is a godsend to all researchers working in that time period. Until this work was done, the only access to these records was by date. Now Sara has retired from her volunteer position at the Archives and will be sorely missed by staff. The real beneficiaries of her work, the researching public, will know of the efforts she made on their behalf for decades to come.

Also retiring from over a decade of work as a volunteer Archives Assistant is Pat McLeod. Pat worked in the Private Records Section on a number of collections of material. In her personal life, Pat was a very active member of the IODE. So when she came to the Archives we utilized her knowledge of that organization to help the uninitiated staff sort out the levels of the organization and the various activities in which it was involved. Pat also worked on the collection of Fred Philips. This donation was truly a collection for Fred had several careers and interests, including his love of circuses to the point of actually 'running away with the circus' as an adult! Pat's input here was invaluable for she knew Fred and some of the activities about which he wrote.

The Archives will miss both these volunteers as solid contributors to the operations of the institution and as friends.

TV APPEARANCES

For archives, positive publicity is often difficult to obtain. The preservation of records is not a glamour issue, or in the vernacular, it is not sexy. However in December, the Provincial Archives was featured on two provincial TV channels and interviews were made for a third television broadcast in January.

Early in December, Fred Farrell provided a tour of the Archives to Neill Stairs of CBC's NB Now program. The tour and interview resulted in a 12 minute piece on the Archives, its holdings and services and the problems of PANB and archives in general. On Boxing Day, Burton Glendenning was featured on CTV story of approximately 5 minutes on Live At five. This article concentrated on genealogical research at the Archives and included a interviews with two genealogists researching at the Archives.

Catherine Harrop of CBC-TV interview Janet Toole for a feature on *Life Trax* about collecting oral history. In the generic sense, Archives collect records of past events. But since some people do not record their lives in a written form, their memories are collected in an oral interview. For this broadcast, Janet, the Oral History Archivist at the Archives, discussed the process of collecting these oral historical records. In this program highlights from interviews with Rev. B. Broderick of the Miramichi, Mary Sorensen, the daughter of Bishop Richardson, and Annie Cairns, a Middlemore child. This interview was part of the *NB Now* program on 13 January and *Newsworld* on 14 January.

COUNCIL OF ARCHIVES NEW BRUNSWICK

Louise Charlebois, the CANB Archives advisor was on the provincial Heritage Week committee. Representatives of a number of heritage organizations and bodies with an interest in heritage organizes some activities and displays under the auspices of the Department of Municipalities Culture and Housing. Louise contacted all the radio stations in NB to have then promote heritage week through a radio quiz. She prepared kits of printed material to be used as prizes. the kits included appropriate guides and brochures form the Archives.

ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIAL

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

RS141 New Brunswick Vital Statistics Records. The *Vital Statistics Act* has recently been amended to allow the Registrar of Vital Statistics to transfer records from that office to the care, custody, and control of the Provincial Archives. The records affected are birth records older than 95 years, and death and marriage records older than 50 years. This transfer of information is currently in process. The birth records to 1903 have already been transferred to and microfilmed by the Archives. The death and marriage records up to and including 1919 have also been transferred and filmed. Those microfilms are now on the shelves and available for research at the Archives and through inter-library loan. Copies of the films can also be purchased. The remaining marriage and death records, 1920 to 1948, will be systematically transferred, microfilmed, and made available over the next year or so. Basic indexes are also being acquired. In future, the records will be made available yearly according to Records Retention and Disposition Schedules. The Registrar of Vital Statistics will continue to issue **certificates** of birth, marriage, and death and make amendments to the transferred records, as per the *Vital Statistics Act*. In consequence of the provisions of the *Vital Statistics Act* and *Archives Act*, the Provincial Archivist will provide public access to the records for all types of research and, as per the *Archives Act*, will certify a copy of a transferred record as proof of authenticity.

Other additions to this Record Series included a published nominal index to the **Marriage Records** covering 1888 to 1901. This is a consolidation of the several typescript volumes previously in use. The first installment of the next phase of this ongoing marriage indexing project, covering the years 1902 to 1904 is in use. And **Provincial Death Returns (RS141C4)**, covering the years 1898 to 1919, have been **microfilmed** and are now available for searching.

RS157 Sunbury County Council Records, 1786 to 1966, 7.3 metres. This is a long-awaited and much-needed revision of this series of records which covers a wide span of years and provides a detailed picture of one of the Province's original Counties. Subjects covered include taxation, health and welfare, justice, agriculture, Old Soldiers and Widows Pensions, schools and education, and various licensing.

County Coroners' Records, 1785 to 1949. 60 additional files added the Coroners' Records for the Counties of Albert (**RS507**), Charlotte (**RS509**), Kings (**RS512**), Northumberland (**RS514**), Restigouche (**RS516**), Saint John (**RS517**), Sunbury (**RS518**), and York (**RS521**) have collectively had to them. The nominal indexes for these Counties have been revised to reflect the new additions.

RS164 Saint John Municipal Police Force Records, 1915 to 1984, 3 metres plus 55 microfilms. This series of records include rosters, time books, charge books, records of arrests, and log books of calls received.

RS658 Right of Way Branch Records, 1970 to 1987, Letter 'L'. Additions to the nominal index to the Department of Transportation rights of ways Records; containing only names beginning with "L".

PRIVATE RECORDS

MC1088 Hugh John Flemming Diary, 1982, one volume.

MC1108 Fredericton Heritage Trust Records, 1980s, 1.2 metres. Additions to existing fonds.

MC1372 Muriel McQueen Fergusson Records, 1899 to 1997, 4.5 metres. Additions to existing fonds.

MC1387 Parochial Journals of the Rev. Samuel Bacon, 1 January 1853 to 5 February 1869, 2 volumes. Samuel Bacon was a missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel who settled on the Miramichi in 1821 and served there until his death in 1869.

MC2039 Fredericton Curling Club Records, ca. 1876 to 1982, 1.2 metres.

MC2499 Kay Ruddick Collection, n.d., 2 volumes. Beautifully illustrated exercise books on geometry and surveying.

MC2619 Comedy Asylum Records, 1980's, 1.6 metres. Records of a small comedy troop, including the donor, Marshall Button, Jill Watson etc. Fonds includes administrative files, scripts, photographs, press clippings, and scrapbooks.

MC2645 Hampton United Church Records, 1876 to 1984, Microfilms F18258 and F18259.

MC2649 St. Andrew's United Church Records, Chatham, 1817 to 1997, Microfilms F18254 & 18257.

MC2656 St. David's United Church Records, Rothesay, 1920's to 1997, microfilms F18600 to F18602 and F18851.

MC2695 Rayburn Doucett Oral History, 2 hours. Doucett was the MLA for Restigouche (1970 to 1995), Chairman of the NB Power Commission (1987 to 1990) and later Minister of Economic Development and Regional Development Corporation. The interviews cover the years from 1970 to 1997.

MC2696 Elizabeth MacGarvie Oral History, 2 hours. During her career, she was the most senior Canadian nurse in the US Army Nurse Corps. She retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1970 to Point LaNim, New Brunswick.

MC2700 Saint John Almshouse Records, 1843 to 1949, 14 volumes, on microfilm.

MC2705 Fonds de l'Ordre de Jacques Cartier (Fredericton), Cellule #38, 1956 to 1965, **VOLUME**.

P481 Albert Henry Murray Fonds, 1940s, 27 photos. Murray was a Montreal golf architect who constructed the course at Edmundston Golf Club. The prints are scenes of the construction and opening of Edmundston golf course, the Murray children in golf poses, and golf instructional shots.

P380 Allie McCarthy Photograph Collection, ca. 1920 to 1950, 270 items. Photographs of Bathurst and area: winter street scenes, church procession, panoramas of Bathurst, beach scenes, municipal councils, soldiers on parade, etc.

Portrait of Frances Petters, ca. 1870 to 1880, carte de visite. An early photograph of a black woman in Saint John. (The Archives has very few photographs of black women for this period.)

ASSOCIATES of the PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK

If you wish to become an Associate, please complete the attached form and send it with a cheque for \$10 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

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

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Extra! Extra!

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The Board of Directors of **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. 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 1997/98 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.