



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

Fall 1998

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Number 7

## NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES

The Associates Annual General Meeting was held at the Provincial Archives on June 8, 1998. The President reported on the accomplishments of the Associates during the year highlighting the successful conclusion of the campaign to fund the acquisition of the Isaac Erb negatives. He noted that meetings in Saint John and Miramichi City had afforded an opportunity to profile the Associates and the programs of the Provincial Archives in these communities. He thanked the Directors of the Associates for their assistance and members for their support and drew attention to the New Brunswick Genealogical Society, Capital Branch which again contributed to the on-going project of providing additional microfilm readers for public use at the Archives.

Unanimous approval was given to the slate of nominees for Directors for the term 1998-2000: Elide Albert, Joe Knockwood, Robert Kelly, Fernand Levesque, Betty Sewell, Jocelyn LeBel and Frank Morehouse. Two of the Directors are new to the Associates, Jocelyne LeBel, of Edmunston, who recently moved from the position of Provincial Librarian to Director of Libraries for the Haut St. Jean Region; and Frank Morehouse, genealogist and researcher who is retired head of the Math Department at Fredericton High School.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors immediately following the Annual General Meeting Joseph Day was elected as President, Ernie Forbes as Vice President and Fred Farrell as Secretary Treasurer. Plans for the next year were discussed briefly and a decision was made to devote a part of the next meeting scheduled for September 17 to future projects and activities of the Associates.

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

### FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITS

#### Isaac Erb Photographic Collection

A Spring Gala in the New Brunswick Legislature in May celebrated the acquisition by the Associates of the Provincial Archives of the renowned Isaac Erb glass negative collection. The Associates had successfully raised funds from a number of benefactors to acquire this collection of international stature for the permanent holdings of the Provincial Archives. At this Gala the donors were honoured and thanked for their foresight and generosity in contributing \$300,000 for this purchase.

Isaac Erb, whose Saint John studio operated between 1877 and 1924, was a pioneer professional photographer who showed technical genius and craftsman. His combination of subject, light and composition are still highly regarded.

Music, flowers, canapés and wine were enjoyed by one hundred Associates and their honoured guests as they watched a program called "Isaac's Eyes", a slide presentation written and narrated by broadcast journalist David Folster. This program illustrated life in Saint John at the turn-of-

the-century, where, among other things, a motion picture industry thrived and a very active immigrant-arrival centre provided constant photographic opportunities.

Early New Brunswick villages and towns photographed by Erb were selected by guest curator and Associate John Corey for the exhibition in the Legislative Council Chamber where the Gala ceremonies were held. The following day, the exhibition was removed to the Provincial Archives Exhibit Room for the summer. That evening David Folster repeated his slide presentation.

At both openings, Provincial Archivist Marion Beyea thanked numerous individuals for their help at the various stages of celebration and acquisition. She thanked the Associates for their dedicated support, and spoke of the coordinated effort of the Associates and staff in bringing about the acquisition and organizing the Gala. Three years of concentrated effort were required in fundraising to obtain this significant Canadian collection. At the Gala she also welcomed and thanked Jamie and Donnie Wilson, descendants of the guardian of the collection, the late Lewis Wilson, himself a well-known Saint John photographer.

Prior to the Gala in the Legislature, a private 'thank-you' dinner was held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, where the President of the Associates, Joseph R. Day, presented each donor with a bound photographic memento reflecting their own interest in the Erb collection. The invited guests included donors: James MacMurray of the MacMurray Foundation of Saint John; Margo Magee Sackett from St. Andrews of the Meighen Foundation; Arthur and Sandra Irving of Saint John representing Irving Oil; Lorraine Neill of the Fredericton Foundation; Bernard Poirier of Moncton; and John L. Williamson of Fredericton representing the Viscount Bennett Fund; as well as the Minister of Supply and Services, the Hon. Greg O'Donnell representing the Province of New Brunswick.

### **Famine Commemoration Exhibit - Irish Tour, 1998**

After successful showings in several New Brunswick locations in 1997, the Provincial Archives was invited to mount the exhibit it had produced to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great Irish Famine at five prestigious venues in Ireland this summer and fall. Denis Noel, exhibit designer, and Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist, traveled to Ireland to open the exhibit at two of the locations, to participate in related public programmes, and to meet with colleagues and officials to promote future Irish-New Brunswick cooperation.

The opening in Dun Laoghaire was a feature of both Canada Day festivities and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the City. The Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. David Andrews, had enthusiastically agreed to open the exhibit, but unfortunately he was detained by a sitting of Parliament and his remarks were presented by his wife, Annette Andrews. Other speakers were; Michael Phillips, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland; Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist of New Brunswick; and David Sheehy, Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Maritime Museum where the exhibit was installed. The Canadian visitors were also guests at a Canada Day luncheon hosted by Mayor D. Marren of Dun Laoghaire, and at a reception at the Ambassador's residence.

On July 13 the Unionist Mayor of Derry, Joseph Miller opened the exhibit in Derry to a group of approximately 85 at the Waterside Workhouse Museum. New Brunswick's is the first international exhibit to be hosted in this restored workhouse. Michael McGuinness, Director of the Museum, and Denis Noel of the Provincial Archives spoke of the appropriateness of the venue for the Archives famine commemoration exhibit.

Prior to these openings, the exhibit had been hosted by the County Council of Monaghan for the month of June where it had been installed in the historic market building, now the Tourist Office.

Meetings were held with the Mayor of Monaghan Town and the County of Monaghan. Monaghan is a 'twin city' with Miramichi here in New Brunswick. Interviews were also conducted by two local newspapers and a radio station.

While in Ireland, collaboration arrangements were completed at the Cobh Heritage Centre and the Strokestown Famine Museum where the exhibit will visit in August and September. Future cooperative undertakings were discussed with Board members and staff. Officials were impressed with the exhibit and about the enthusiastic visitor response to it. The openings and dates of the exhibit had been announced in brochures and advertising and the events generated radio and press publicity.

The Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, which has immigration as its theme, sent an official to view the exhibit and has requested that the tour be extended to its gallery, as have the Northern Ireland History Society in Belfast, the Jenny Johnston Project in Blennerville in Ireland and Concordia University in Montreal. In addition, officials of the Irish Diaspora Project, based in New Zealand, have been in touch with Mr. McGuinness of Derry regarding the exhibit.

One of the immediate visible results of the tour of the Archives exhibit has been the establishment in everyone's mind of the significance of Irish immigration to New Brunswick. It is helping to correct a seemingly prevalent perception in Ireland that immigration to North America was to the United States and, to a lesser extent, Grosse Isle in Quebec. It also identified areas of common interest, generated ideas for several future heritage projects, and fostered the establishment of links of communication.

A highlight of the tour was the discovery of a series of letters from a Dublin immigrant to British Columbia outlining his activities, the challenges he faced, and his success in establishing himself in the colony in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These came forward as a result of exhibit publicity in Dun Laoghaire. Copies were obtained for deposit at an Archives in Canada. Through a contact made at the exhibit in Dun Laoghaire the Provincial Archives will obtain copies of letters written by a passenger on the *Aeolus*, one of the immigrant ships featured in the exhibit.

A project has been initiated with Irish colleagues to publicize the interest of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in letters sent home by Irish immigrants to New Brunswick that have been preserved in Ireland. Articles will be carried in local newspapers providing background on 19<sup>th</sup> century immigration from Ireland to New Brunswick, explaining the importance of the information they contain, and providing the names of regional contacts in Ireland. Arrangements will then be made for microfilming the records located.

Meetings with writers, researchers, media personalities, curators and other professionals in the heritage field underlined the interest and value there is in exploring the shared heritage of New Brunswick and Ireland.

The preparation and tour of the exhibit in New Brunswick and its subsequent tour in Ireland would not have been possible without the sponsorship of: the Irish Cultural Association of New Brunswick, Saint John Branch; Famine 150, Irish Cultural Association of New Brunswick; Province of New Brunswick Intergovernmental Affairs; Government of Canada, Department of External Affairs; The Westward Group of Companies; Irish Canada Association (Ireland); McCain's (Ireland); Monaghan County Council; National Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire; Museum Services, Derry; Strokestown Famine Museum; Canadian Embassy, Dublin; Dun Laoghaire 1500 Committee; and Cobh Heritage Centre.

## **Summer Festivals and Workshops**

The Archives was represented at a number of festivals and celebrations again this past summer. At the Irish Festival in Miramichi, we put up a display of colour photos of Derry, a gift from that city. We also had a genealogical instruction area with some of our Research Guides to help people begin to climb their family tree. This same display and help desk was also used at the Johnville Picnic.

The NB Scottish Festival and Highland Games were held again on the grounds of the Old Government House and the Archives was a part of the genealogical tent. Since this is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Kincardine, then commonly referred to as the “Scotch Colony”, the small display consisted of copies of documents relative to the arrival of the new immigrants in 1873. Genealogical reference books were also made available.

And at the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish in Bathurst, Archives staff provided a genealogical help desk for visitors to the week-long event. Guides to sources for the Bathurst area were available, as were a number of published sources.

## **Exhibit Openings at the Provincial Archives**

**Women at Work;** Official opening at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7.

Marking Women’s History Month this exhibit explores the changing nature of work for women in New Brunswick from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Through photographic images and archival documents, it will show the broad range of work – professional careers, jobs in factories and stores and as proprietors of a variety of businesses – which has engaged women over the years and thereby challenges the idea of “women’s work” being very limited in scope.

**Dordrecht during World War II;** Official opening at 5pm on Sunday, November 8.

This series of photographs records the impact of World War II on life in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, from the first military activity on May 10, 1940 to the city’s liberation by Canadians on May 8, 1945. The exhibit was prepared by the Dordrecht Municipal Archives as a token of honour to all the Canadian soldiers as well as those at home who sacrificed so much to liberate cities such as Dordrecht. The opening will convey this tribute to veterans who experienced the war in the Netherlands and their families, as well as highlight the contributions of the Dutch who have made New Brunswick their home since the war.

## **New Microfilm Readers**

The New Brunswick Genealogical Society has once again been the major contributor for the purchase of a new microfilm reader at the Archives when in April they presented a cheque for **\$2750** to the Archives. These funds, in addition to monies from the donation box, allowed of a third new reader with donations. The Archives has matched these gifts by acquiring three additional readers. Patrons are gratefully using these six new readers which cost approximately \$4200 each.

## **PANB On The Web**

([www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives](http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives))

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has begun the massive and longterm process of making the finding aids to its holdings available on the Internet. Maybe somewhere in the technological future the actual documents can be read on-line, but for now **finding aids only** are being made available. In the world of Archives, 'finding aids' is a term used to denote any index, inventory, box list, file list, or any other research tool used to assist with access to information.

The finding aids which have been added to the Archives' web page are for several series of government records and are located at [www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives](http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives). The finding aids are for:

### **RS13 Correspondence of the Provincial Secretary (1785-1957, bulk 1820-1890)**

This series contains only the correspondence of the Provincial Secretary, but since this position was central to New Brunswick government administration (as indicated in the extensive background notes linked to the finding aid) this is an extremely valuable research tool for anyone working on nineteenth century New Brunswick history. It includes pointers to records on militia service, British Regular Army military activity, estates, land surveys, boundaries, mining, Customs House, Kings College / University of New Brunswick, trade, shipping, finance, legal cases, and hundreds of other topics.

### **RS141 New Brunswick Vital Statistics (1887-1987, bulk 1888-1935)**

This series lists information on records of births (1888-1903), marriages (1888-1919), deaths (1888-1935), registration of clergy (1943-1987), and annual reports. Most of the records have been microfilmed and can be viewed on microfilm at the Provincial Archives or at a library participating in the microfilm lending/borrowing program. The series also includes the late registration of births, by which procedure many thousands of births prior to 1888 were registered.

### **RS141A2/2 Index to County Birth Registers for births dating between 1801 and 1899**

This is an index of over 78,000 births compiled from the extant County Birth Registers which were kept by deputy registrars in each county between 1888 and 1919. All births prior to 1900 have been added to a database which is now available on the Internet. The index shows the name of the person whose birth is being registered, name of mother, father, place and county of birth, date of birth, and reel number of the register on microfilm for those who want to check the entry. Researchers can search the index in a broad search or by narrowing the search to a specific name, field, and county. [The Archives is very desirous to have information on the existence or whereabouts of the registers of birth for Sunbury County 1888-1919, Westmorland County 1888-1919, and Madawaska County 1888-1909.]

### **RS637 Records of the Surveyor General of New Brunswick (1784-1912)**

This series provides access to the records of one of the most administratively important positions in early New Brunswick government. The Surveyor General (*later* Minister of Lands and Mines, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy) was a member of His Majesty's Council and the Executive Council and the key figure in the control of crown lands, timber, mining and other resources. The records included here concern the administration of the Surveyor General's office, its deputies and functions, and such matters as surveying, revenues, boundaries, land granting and escheatment, leasing, settlement, railways, fisheries, Indian lands and reserves, and the large estate cases of the Owens Family on Campobello and the Garrish-Gray-Stannus Estate at Hillsborough, among a myriad of other topics. The series is invaluable to those researching any facet of nineteenth century land and resource administration.

It is planned that many more such valuable research tools will be made available as resources allow. We hope all associates and friends will check the web site and, certainly, comments on this first endeavour are welcome.

## ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIAL

### GOVERNMENT RECORDS

RS17 **Company and Corporation Records, Letters Patent and Supplementary Letters Patent**, 1885-1976, 27 microfilms. Letters of incorporation issued by the Province. Cumulative index to the registers also on film; F18000.

RS56B **Court of Queen's Bench, Matters**, 1910-1991. Revised index. Formerly called Supreme Court Matters. Includes cases involving quieting of title, guardianship, incompetence, estates.

RS57B **Supreme Court Decrees**, 1895-1974. Revised index. Includes decrees for cases involving quieting of title, guardianship, estates, incompetence, change of names, debt.

RS81 **Tourism Administration Records**, 1968-1991, 7.5m. Correspondence, minutes, reports, and statistics, on tourism strategy, agreements, associations, sites, and parks.

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records**, 1920-1938, 114 microfilms. *Certificates of Registration of Deaths* are now available for all counties to 1934; and for the province from 1935 to 1938 but no longer divided by county. *Unindexed*

RS124 **Records of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture**, 1938-1981, 8.4m. Reports, correspondence, and articles on 20th century agriculture in NB, including agricultural societies, credit unions and co-operatives, agricultural rehabilitation and development, marketing boards.

RS123 **Records of the Minister of Agriculture**, 1938-1972, 1.2 m. Similar to RS124.

RS846 **Records of the Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture**, 1938-1973, 0.5m. Similar to RS124.

RS318 **Field Husbandry Branch**, 1938-1967, 0.5m. Relates primarily to the development of field crop production.

RS319 **Livestock and Dairy Branch Records**, 1955-1968, 0.4m. Relates primarily to the development of the dairy industry.

### PRIVATE RECORDS

MC2740 **Renforth Tennis Club fonds**, 1906-1919, 2cm. Includes minute book and constitution.

MC2741 **Renforth Outing and Athletic Association fonds**, 1927-1947, 2cm. One record book containing financial and membership information.

MC2608 **Moncton Teachers Benevolent Society fonds**, 1959-1975, 7cm. Includes minutes, account books, and membership list.

MC2611 **New Maryland Women's Institute Records**, 1915-1981, 12cm., on microfilm. Minutes.

New editions of the finding aids to **MC3, Research Notes and Papers** and **MC80, NB Publications** have been produced as well as the **Guide to Family Histories** and the **Guide to Biographies**.

## **ASSOCIATES WELCOME A NEW ARCHIVES IN NEW BRUNSWICK**

The Provincial Archives works cooperatively with a number of regional, institutional and thematic archives to promote the preservation of the province's heritage. Now, after closing its doors in Halifax the fall of 1997, on 1 May 1998, the United Church of Canada, Maritime Conference, opened in new quarters in Sackville. This was the termination of 18 years of efforts to gain better, expanded space. The holdings had grown from the approximately 750 linear feet of records consolidated in 1968 by Dr. Arthur Betts when he was instrumental in bringing the Methodist Archives from Sackville to Pine Hill to be added to the Presbyterian and United Church Archives already there in the Falconer Room. The current holdings are approximately 1500 feet.

As early as 1980, The Canadian Conservation Institute had recommended that the archives be moved from the hot dry area in which they were stored in order to ensure their survival. A Task Force was struck and over the next decade various attempts were made to find a solution in Halifax. The collection grew and an additional room was acquired for the Atlantic School of Theology. But it was not a permanent solution and in 1991 the Maritime Conference Long Range Planning Committee endorsed the plan to relocate to Sackville.

By 1993, a "Friends of the Archives" group was formed and the fund raising began in earnest. At first the results were not encouraging, but by February 1997 the Conference authorized the work to begin, and, after the usual construction problems and surprises, the move took place in December and the Archives is now open for business.

### **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.

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### **ASSOCIATES OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1**

Phone: (506) 453-2122  
Fax: (506) 453-3288

E-Mail: provarch@gov.nb.ca  
Web Site: www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives

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

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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 1998/99 are: Elide Albert, Jocelyne LeBel, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Ernie Forbes, Joe Knockwood, Robert Kelly, Fernand Lévesque, Frank Morehouse, 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 at the Archives Provincial of New Brunswick, is the Secretary-Treasurer.

## CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions for this issue were prepared by 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.