



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

AUTUMN 1999

ISSN 1201-8333

Number 9

## NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES

### Larsen & Mersereau Photo Identification

by Cyril Donahue

The Associates of the Provincial Archives sponsored a Young Canada Works summer project to improve the identification of photographs taken by Ole Larsen and Jacob Mersereau, two Miramichi photographer. Through the support of Charles Hubbard, MP, a student, Jennifer Mattatall, was employed on the Miramichi to research those photos which were unidentified, misidentified or lacked detail in the identification.

Ole Larsen was born in Norway in 1849 and emigrated to the Miramichi about 1869. He worked at several occupations while perfecting his photography skills. In the early 1880s he was employed as a fireman in Newcastle and later tended bar at the Waverly Hotel. By 1889 he had opened a photography studio and worked at it part time until 1894 when he launched his career as a professional photographer. For the next two decades Larsen traveled Northumberland and Gloucester counties, photographing people, dwellings, industry, public buildings and special events. Larsen died in Newcastle in 1926. The Provincial Archives holds over 1300 of his photographs.

Jacob Mersereau was born in Blackville in 1854, the grandson of a United Empire Loyalist of French Huguenot ancestry. He moved to Chatham where he set up a photography business and became active in civic politics. He was an active member of the Board of Trade for many years, served six years as Alderman and was elected Mayor in 1921. The Provincial Archives has

approximately 800 of his photos which cover not only the Miramichi but all of New Brunswick, from Campbellton to St. Stephen.

A century has passed since Larsen and Mersereau captured a visual record of the Miramichi and New Brunswick with their photographs. The lapse of so much time has made gathering more details on the images a difficult task. But through this project, 125 photographs have been identified in more detail, a not inconsiderable achievement. For example, one photo (P6-122), while previously described only in relation to the architectural features and style of the building portrayed, now has details on the location and the owners. It was the Gill residence in Barnaby River with Pat and Richard, the Gill children, standing in front. Richard grew up to become a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Northumberland County. The house was destroyed by fire in the 1920s.

Thanks must be extended to the *Miramichi Leader* and its editor Joanne Cadogan for publishing a number of photographs throughout the summer. Also a thank-you to is owed the many interested citizens who viewed the exhibits at the Miramichi Folksong Festival and the Miramichi Irish Festival. The student working on this project, Jennifer Mattatall, was a welcome guest in many Miramichi homes this summer. Without their contributions at home and at the festivals this project would not have been a success.

[Editor's note: Cyril Donahue, a member of the Board of Directors of the Associates, managed and promoted the project and was responsible for its success. Work on the photographs' identification project will continue over the fall and winter.

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES - - - - -

### FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITS . . . . .

By virtue of the Archives Act, the Provincial Archives has a mandate to make documents available for research and to publish and publicize its holding. Each year the Provincial Archives participates in a variety of outreach programs ranging from presentations to school groups and tours of the Archives to participation in community events. Summer is a particularly active time for the latter. On a practical level, this public participation introduces the Archives holdings and programs to people previously unaware of archival resources. Copies of the documents are not only made available, they are actually taken to the people.

Each year since the **Miramichi Irish Festival** began 16 years ago, the Archives has played an active and visible role. This year the Archives presented an exhibit of photos and maps showing ports of origin in Ireland and the ports of entry in New Brunswick of famine immigrants, as well as a list of the names of 16,000 who arrived in our province. Exhibits and lectures by two visiting historians from Ireland were coordinated by Denis Noel of the Archives. And various staff members assisted in the *genealogical room* which attracted over 300 visitors for the 3-day festival. A new feature of the Festival was a family reunion; this year the McCarthy Family was highlighted. For this the Archives produced the McCarthy Family Documentary Sources guide with the names of 2750 McCarthys in sources at the Provincial Archives.

Staff of the Archives participated in the 121<sup>st</sup> annual **Johnville Picnic**. And while the Archives has had a presence there for only a decade, the 1000 current and former members of that community, and their visitors who attended, again welcomed a chance to view an exhibit of some Archives photos and to conduct genealogical research by using printed documentary materials.

The Archives was also at the **New Brunswick Highland Games** held on the grounds of Government House in Fredericton. As in past years, the Archives set up research tables in the genealogy tent and put on a small photo exhibit. The photos this year were from **Bonnie Scotland**, a 1907 pictorial serial publication in the holdings of the Provincial Archives. These gave New Brunswickers of Scottish descent a chance to get an historical 'view' of the country of their ancestors.

The Archives was also an active participant at **New Brunswick Ancestors – Arrivals and Departures**. This was the title and theme of the biannual international genealogical colloquium hosted by the New Brunswick Genealogical Society in Moncton. Fred Farrell delivered a paper on some of the church records at the Archives, and other staff members set up and staffed the research room. In addition to the printed and published documentary sources, this year the Archives provided over 600 microfilms of vital statistics, thus enabling visitors to conduct more in-depth research. And the Council of Archives New Brunswick had publications for sale in the 'market place' rooms.

In Tracadie, the Archives participated in a weekly series **Journee du patrimoine** in August. Allen Doiron used copies of land grants, land petitions and maps to visually reconstruct the village of Charnasay. The site was part of the area expropriated in 1940 for a military airfield and shooting range. Sixty people attended that session.

Another **Journee du patrimoine** was held in Bathurst at Holy Family- Sainte-Famille church. Holy Family began as a mission late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and became the first parish church in the Bathurst area. It was quite appropriate that the Archives presentation was on the theme of family roots. Both the photo display and a genealogy research area with

microfilms were well received. Earlier in the year in Bathurst, the Archives prepared a display of photographs for the opening of the new 'village' bridge, the third bridge on that site this century. The first was built prior to 1900 to connect the town of Bathurst with the village of Bathurst across the mouth of Bathurst Basin. Copies of photos and plans of the two previous bridges were on display.

The exhibit *Women at Work* traveled to the St. Croix Public Library in St. Stephen where it was officially opened by Lieutenant-Governor Marilyn Trenholme Counsell. This exhibit,

### **Public Service . . . . .**

#### **The Researcher and the Internet . . . .**

Over the past few years, researchers and archivists alike have become familiar with the Internet. The aspects of this communication infrastructure most familiar to us are 'e-mail', the electronic mail function, and 'the web', i.e., the World Wide Web as a source of information. Each of these is changing the way we do research, the way we present our archives to the public, the way we transfer information, and the way we communicate with our public.

E-mail, the personal communication part of the internet, has brought both benefits and disappointments to archivists and researchers. The first benefit is the speed of the medium. A rapidly growing number of researchers are beginning to espouse this method of communication. The growth in the number of requests received in this manner is geometric. In the first year Provincial Archives began using e-mail, 1996/97, there were 19 substantive e-mail inquiries. In 1997/98, we received 142 e-mail requests for information; in 1998/99, it increased to 340. From 1 April to 31 August 1999, over 440 public inquiries requiring a substantive response have been received.

But speed is also the source of disappointment with this method of communication. Many e-mail users are also novice researchers. What

which chronicled the changing nature of the work of New Brunswick women from the 1890s to the 1960s, had previously been at the Archives in Fredericton. It remained in St. Stephen for the summer.

While resource limitations mean that the Archives must have the support of a partner or sponsor for most of its outreach programs, the positive comments received from sponsors and attendees at the events and the significant numbers taking part, underline the importance of these programs.

seems like a simple request, a request that has taken only a few minutes to compose, could take days, or longer, to research. Fostered by e-mail itself, as well as other electronic communications media, a characteristic of modern society has become the 'need' for an instant answer. Because it takes only an instant to send the message, some researchers expect an instant response. Unfortunately, even checking a number of indices takes time.

In the past, inquiries to be sent by the postal system were usually mentally drafted and revised before they were put to paper. Today, while some questions are from committed researchers who know their needs, other inquiries come on a whim from the internet surfers who found our address. And we are finding that e-mail inquiries are often stream-of-consciousness writing. Some questions are as broad as 'where did the settlers to NB come from'? Extensive secondary source research would be required to provide a comprehensive answer. (The first ones came from Asia across the Bering Strait; and this year they came from this year Kosovo in Eastern Europe.) A narrowing of the scope of the question, or the intent of the question, is required.

Another example of a seemingly simple, though interesting, inquiry came from a researcher with only an electronic address asking for information on how the 1919

Spanish Influenza affected New Brunswick. This could be answered with either a one line response, or a Ph.D. thesis. It too required elaboration on the part of the researcher. Further communication revealed that the researcher was not a medical or social historian, but a novelist in New Zealand who was using Charlo as a setting for the novel on which he was working. He just insuring that the influenza had touched northern NB.

Of course the positive side of e-mail in these instances is that an instant clarification of the question can be requested.

Another facet of the Internet used by researchers is the search for information. To begin to address this requirement, the Archives is endeavoring to prepare some of its many finding aids for mounting on the internet. To date we have several searchable databases, including a land grant index, birth index, marriage index, a microfilm list, and several provincial directories. Printed on paper, these fill approximately 12,000 pages. We also have our County Genealogical Guides available for all to use and to download in a word processing format if researchers want a paper copy. The Guides for 15 counties, in both English and French, are over 600 pages in paper form. We are beginning to get our finding aids for Government Records up in an electronic form. Add to this our guides to family histories, the Irish Immigrant database, and you have over 16,000 pages of text on line.

In the non-textual areas, we have two photo exhibits mounted for viewing. These are electronic versions of exhibitions which were on display in our exhibition room in the past two years; *Women at Work in New Brunswick: 1885-1972* and *New Brunswick in World War II*.

With this impressive growth in the amount of

information available on 'the web', what is the down side? The major one is that what we are able to make available on line is only a miniscule portion of what is available to researchers who visit the Archives in person. The two exhibits represent about 125 photographs and maps. At the Archives in the Photograph Section are over 300,000 photographic images. The Cartographic Section has approximately 40,000 maps and plans and some 200,000 architectural drawings.

Even the finding aids, which at 16,000 pages of text seems enormous, it is but a small fraction of the approximately 250,000 pages of finding aids available at the Archives. And sound and moving images are still not available in remote locations in an electronic form even though we have several thousand hours of each in our holdings.

The figures for original textual documents are even more daunting. To date the Archives has only a dozen pages of documents on line. The searchable vital statistics and provincial directories databases represent the essential information from an estimated 10,000 pages of text. But here the Archives holdings are enormous. In a textual format, the Archives has in excess of 60,000,000 pages. The current growth rate is more than 3,000,000 pages per year. The documents being transferred to Archives are still of the paper variety. Electronic documents have not yet reached the archival stage in their lives. So while archivists strive to make known what documents are available for research, the content of these documents on line is but a dream. Our goal is to have researchers better informed before they arrive here. Information is available on 'the web'. Research must still be done at the Archives.

**Public Programmes . . . . .**

**1999 Church History Workshop . . . . .**

As part of its outreach program, the Provincial Archives has been an active partner in the annual Church History Workshop for the past 12 years. The first workshop, *The Anglican Church in New Brunswick: An Historical Workshop*, held on 12 May 1987 in the Department of History at UNB in conjunction with the Christ Church Cathedral’s Festival of the Arts, proved very popular. So for the second workshop, the scope was expanded to include all churches. And that year, the Provincial Archives became involved. This was a most appropriate involvement, since, by agreement with the Diocese of Fredericton, the Provincial Archive preserves the archives of the Diocese. Beginning that year, a sample of the artifacts and documents from the Anglican Archives has been on display at the workshop receptions held at the Provincial Archives.

On Saturday, 15 May 1999, the eleventh Church History Workshop was held in Ludlow Hall at UNB Fredericton. Approximately 70 people registered to attend the ten presentations. The scope of the workshop continues to include all denominations. This year there were sessions were on: Baptist Women Preachers; Baptists during the Depression; the Huntington Missionaries; Bishops Medley and Richardson; the Residences of the Bishops and Deans in the Diocese of Fredericton; temperance and prohibition and the Anglican and Methodist Churches, the campaign against Sunday desecration; and St. Mark’s Chapel of Ease at Kings Landing. A Church History Workshop

Committee of four; Janice Cook and Gillian Liebenberg acting as co-chairs, with Heidi MacDonald and Twila Buttimer as members, planned and put on this Workshop. It is still jointly sponsored by the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, the Department of History at UNB, and the Diocese of Fredericton.

An unusual feature of the Workshop, and probably its strongest appeal, is the balance that has been struck between the “general and practical sessions, complemented by reports on original research.” Over the years, a variety of research papers, from Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic, as well as Anglican perspectives have been given and these have been supplemented by presentations on the Diocesan Archives, the Medley Library, oral history, and writing church histories. Visual presentations have included paintings and photographs of churches in the Diocese. In recent years, efforts have been made to broadcast knowledge of the Workshop and to broaden its appeal. But this balance and the intention to be a forum for all people interested in church history, both amateur and professional, has not changed. The lively informal exchange of ideas and information among those attending and those making presentations indicate that this goal is being realized.

As with all workshops and conferences, many staff members contribute to the success. In addition to the organizing committee, there is always the mailing of programs, the coffee breaks, the registration, and the other tasks which are not foreseen but appear nonetheless.

**ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIAL - - - - -**

**GOVERNMENT RECORDS . . . . .**

**RS61 Albert County Probate Court Records, Nominal Index, 1846-1984, 44 pp.**  
This *revised index* adds files for the years 1980-1984.

**RS65 Kent County Probate Court Records, Nominal Index, 1827-1983, 45 pp.**  
This *revised index* adds files for the years 1980-1983.

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records: Late Registration of Births, Index to Documentation**, 1810-1904. 1202 pages This is an index to the registration forms and correspondence (RS141a1b) submitted by individuals to validate the late registration of a birth. The index includes the microfilm number on which the documentation is located.

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records, Index to Marriages**, 1911-1913. 338 pages. This is the latest installment of the indexing project being carried out by volunteer Dorothy Wiggs.

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records, Provincial Returns of Marriages**, 1920-1949. An index 97 microfilms of returns in various chronological sub series

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records, Certificates of Registration of Death**, 1945-1949. 28 microfilms.

RS157 **Sunbury County Council Records: Minutes of the General Sessions**, 1791-1798, approx. 160 pages. This very early minute

book of the Court of General Sessions for Sunbury County, includes information on the granting of licenses, appointments of officials, hearings of both civil and criminal cases, and expenditures of monies. It is both an administrative and judicial minute book, i.e., minutes of Inferior court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace

RS427 **Saint John Municipal Records: Index to Common Council Papers**, 1841-1867, 190 pages. This is a nominal and subject index to the calendars prepared for the papers of the Saint John Common Council for those years.

RS698 **Records of the Royal Commission on Bathurst Schools (1893)**. *Report Upon Charges Relating to the Bathurst Schools and Other Schools in Gloucester County/* by Hon. J.J. Fraser. Printed for the Legislature, 1894. 72 p.

**Microfilm Subject Guides.** Both the *Subject Guide* and the *County Guide* to microfilm have been revised. This is the 8th edition. Each is approximately 650 pages.

## PRIVATE RECORDS . . . . .

MC513 **Hugh S. Gregory & Sons Fonds**, a Saint John Stevedoring Firm, 1875-1947. The finding aid to this fonds includes records borrowed from the New Brunswick Museum for microfilming, as well as records in the custody of the Provincial Archives. The NBM portion of the fonds is 40 cm. on 4 microfilms, numbers, F20082 to F20085. The PANB portion of the fonds, 90 cm., was not filmed.

MC1736 **First United Baptist Church Records**, Moncton, F19674 & F19900. Revised finding aid

MC1789 **Humphrey Memorial United Church, Records**, Moncton, F20089. Revised finding aid

MC1994 **First United Church Records**, Bathurst, F19673. Revised finding aid

MC2719 **Star of the Boyne, Loyal Orange Lodge No. 36, Records**, Hoyt, 1878-1982, 22 cm. (Film number to be assigned.) Complete minutes, 1897-1976, and other items including Roll Books.

MC2720 **Star of Hope Council No. 29 Royal Templars of Temperance Records**, Patterson Settlement, 1888-1893. 1 cm. (Microfilm number to be assigned.) Minutes, 1888-1893, and related items.

MC2821 **Sussex Women's Institute Records**, 1914-1976. 33 cm. on microfilms F20021 & F20022. Primarily minutes; one of the earliest Women's Institutes in NB; formed in 1914 and dissolved in 1976.

MC2822 **Sussex Corner Women's Institute Records**, 1962-1976. 4 cm. on microfilm F20023. Minutes for the period.

MC2826 **Saint John Law Society Fonds**, 1878-1958. 10 cm. on microfilm F20081. Minutes, 1892-1958; and outgoing correspondence, 1878-1898.

MC2827 **Saint John Horticultural Association Fonds**, 1893-1943. 22cm. on microfilm F20090. Primarily minutes, 1893-1943. This group acquired the land for Rookwood Park in Saint John.

MC2828 **Parker Family Account Books**, 1817-1888. 54 cm. on 3 microfilms F20086 to F20088. The family built ships at Tynemouth Creek.

MC2838 **St. Croix Branch No. 9, Royal Canadian Legion, St. Stephen Fonds**, 1917-1990. 35 cm on microfilm. Includes minutes of Great War Veterans Association, 1917-1928; Ladies Auxiliary, 1975-1988; and Junior Ladies Auxiliary, 1945-1983.

**ASOCIATES 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  
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 wish to assist the Provincial Archives by supporting the goals of the Associates of the Archives.

**SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Member</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$100 and over</b>
<b>Sustaining Member</b>	<b>over \$10</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500 and over</b>

# Extra! Extra!

Autumn 1999

ISSN 1201-8333

Number 9

**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 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, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Ernie Forbes, Joe Knockwood, Robert Kelly, Jocelyne LeBel, Fernand Lévesque, Dave MacMinn, 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

The report on the Miramichi Photo Identification Project was prepared by Cyril Dohahue. All the reports 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.