



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES ~~~~~

Annual General Meeting – 1999 ~~~~~

The 1999 Annual General Meeting of the Associates was held on October 14 at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. The President, Joseph Day, recalled the gala and special exhibit hosted in connection with last year's annual meeting to celebrate the acquisition of 3500 glass negatives of renowned Saint John photographer, Isaac Erb, and to thank donors to the Associates fundraising campaign which made the achievement possible. He spoke of the strategic plan endorsed by the Associates in September 1998 and of the new initiative aimed at identifying and recording details of photographs of the Miramichi region. He also noted that the Provincial Archives, with the assistance and encouragement of the Associates, has added a total of eight new readers for public use in the research room. He thanked the Directors of the Associates for their assistance and members for their support. He drew particular attention to the Capital Branch of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society which again made a significant contribution to the Associates ongoing project of providing additional microfilm readers for public use at the Archives.

Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist, reported on the activities of the Provincial Archives in 1998-1999. Research visits to the Archives numbered 5000, a 15% increase from the previous year, mail enquiries were up 10%,

and 330 requests for information were received via the Internet, a new source for the Archives. The Archives has started a long-term process to make finding aids -- indexes, file lists, document lists, or other research tools used to help access information -- available on the internet to assist researchers in and prepare them for their work at the Archives. New initiatives in records management training were regional training offered to departments and agencies in the Saint John area and customized presentations in Fredericton designed to address specific needs. The Records Management Unit also developed an administrative policy on the use of imaging technology and prepared a strategy on the management and preservation of electronic records in the New Brunswick government. Several exhibits and other outreach programs were offered, in a number of instances with the cooperation of the Associates. She thanked the Associates for their interest in the Archives and their encouragement.

Unanimous approval was given to the following slate of Directors for the 1999-2001 term: John Corey, Joe Day, Cyril Donahue, Dr. Ernie Forbes, Robert Kelly, Mary Peck. Directors continuing in the second year of their term are: Joe Knockwood, Jocelyn LeBel, Fernand Levesque, Frank Morehouse, and Betty Sewell. David MacMinn represents the Department of Supply and Services on the Board.

A special feature of the meeting was an illustrated presentation on the Chestnut Canoe by author, Roger McGregor. He has recently completed a book on this topic based on research in Provincial Archives records as well as other sources. He outlined the history of the company and related anecdotes from people involved in building or using canoes who have memorable associations with the Chestnut canoe. The book entitled *When The Chestnut Was In Flower: Inside the Chestnut Canoe* is available from Plumsweep Press of Lansdowne, Ontario.

Annual General Meeting – 2000 ~~~~~

The Annual General Meeting of the Associates will be held at Old Government House, Woodstock Road, Fredericton, on Monday, 13 June, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. The business meeting will be followed by the launching of the photographic exhibit *Fredericton – Then and Now* and a reception.

You are asked to confirm your attendance by telephoning Paula Glendenning at 453-6356 or sending an e-mail to provarch@gov.nb.ca

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES ~~~~~

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS ~~~~~

For many years tombstones have been a significant source of biographical information and many a researcher has gone tromping through cemeteries looking for the gems of information that will help them add to their treasure-trove of data. Genealogists are one group that finds tombstone inscriptions useful to their research. Today more and more researchers are using electronic means for pursuing their family history but those tombstones just do not scan easily. In several provinces genealogical societies have undertaken the labour-intensive task of creating databases of tombstone information and making them available on the web.

Following that lead the Capital Branch of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society recognized the importance and utility of such a source. As well, the Branch felt it had the expertise to design such a project but wanted to improve on the examples they looked at from Ontario and British Columbia. In those jurisdictions only partial information was provided, necessitating reference to other sources. Such a step in conjunction with the web can create considerable frustration for the user and require an infrastructure to respond to the inquiries generated. In an effort to design a project that would maximize information and minimize supplementary

questions, the Branch formed a committee under the leadership of Wayne Gunter to plan the gathering of tombstone inscriptions for York and Sunbury counties and the presentation of such a database on the web.

In forming the committee the Branch called on a number of its members with extensive research and information-delivery experience. George Hayward, Victor Badeau, Helen Craig, Catherine Hilder, Ruth Ker, Jack Ker, Andrew Gunter, and Frank Morehouse (Archives Associates Board of Directors) set to work identifying what the project would entail and dividing the tasks accordingly. Early on, the committee contacted the Provincial Archives to elicit its cooperation on a number of aspects of the project. In the holdings of the Archives there were already a number of cemetery transcriptions that could be put to a dual use. Such existing works could provide the committee with examples of the type of data compiled previously and those cemeteries could be used to begin the compilation of a master list of cemeteries to be included in the database. The Archives was also asked to comment on the software to be used and to share its experience hosting online research mechanisms including the design of search screens. Discussions have also taken place

regarding the Archives maintaining the data in electronic form and hosting the web site.

To date the committee has established what types of data will be collected, developed the database structure, scheduled training sessions for collectors of the data, and put a procedure in place for people to sign up for particular cemeteries. The kick off awaits only warmer, drier weather. The objective of the Capital

Branch is make available online details recorded on thousands of tombstones in York and Sunbury Counties. In the long term perhaps this database will be a prototype for a database covering the whole province. If that transpires, people around the world will be able to search New Brunswick cemeteries with a click of a mouse and know exactly where to tromp when they visit the province.

JOBS UNLIMITED EMPLOYERS ~~~~~

Fred Farrell was keynote speaker at the Jobs Unlimited Employers Night in October 1999. His speech, the text of which follows, expresses the sentiments of both employers and the employees who use the services of Jobs Unlimited.

“A large part of achieving happiness, or at least contentment in our lives, comes from identifying, either intentionally or by accident, an occupation that brings satisfaction along with the other more worldly benefits. Part of that realization is coming to grips with our own personalities. An important aspect of accepting who we are, is challenging oneself to eliminate self-imposed limitations which are within our capabilities. And despite those who would tell us there are no challenges, just opportunities, each of us have boundaries outside which, we do not feel comfortable. It is much like free will. As a colleague explained to me many years ago, if I truly had free will I could fly, leap large buildings, or break par at Pebble Beach. My free will is more in the realm of refraining from having more than one dessert and shooting 85 at Mactaquac.

An important part of job satisfaction is enjoying your work and achieving a degree of proficiency. Any work place that can engender that kind of atmosphere is on the road to success. I have the privilege of working in such a place and I hope the Jobs Unlimited clients who work with us feel the same. The Provincial Archives of New

Brunswick, like most archives in Canada, holds a wealth of documentation from which our past is interpreted and our present can be understood. Like many archives, we also have a tremendous backlog of work to make these resources available to the public. As a result, almost from the beginning the Provincial Archives adopted a strategy to supplement its staffing level by participating in a wide range of outside “funded” positions – including students, seniors, volunteers, and groups like “Jobs Unlimited”. Although such an approach contains plenty of flaws, and no shortage of bumps along the way, it also holds many rewarding experiences. Not the least of which is, that an incredible amount of work that will be a lasting contribution to the heritage of this province is completed that would otherwise not be done.

Jobs Unlimited clients are not like any other employee. They need to know how their efforts contribute to the overall goals of the workplace and have little fear of asking direct questions as to why or who is doing what in the workplace, with little deference to status, salary or hierarchy. It is important for other staff to accept this atmosphere if a placement is to be successful. Such an approach can be jolting initially to both staff and the public but can also be refreshing and on days of stress and frustration can put our daily woes in the proper perspective. On the other hand any time a work force is supplemented by those who are less confined by the normal or internal

structures of the work place, strife can be caused. In the case of Jobs Unlimited, this is diminished by the preparatory work of the vocational placement staff that strives to match their clients with workplaces where their skills offer the best chance of success.

Currently, 4 Jobs Unlimited clients work for the Provincial Archives and each contribute significantly to the archives' operation. The two in our Micrographics Section contribute 30% of our microfilm production. This work preserves information about New

Brunswick's past and makes it available to people around the world. In our building on the UNB Campus, 2 more help with data entry and recycling efforts.

The 4 Jobs Unlimited clients working at the Provincial Archives and the several others who preceded them, have made a sizable contribution to preserving and making accessible this province's history. We need them and their efforts will pay dividends to New Brunswickers for many years to come.

PUBLIC SERVICE ~~~~~

As reported in the last issue, e-mail and the internet have become a very useful tool for researchers both in communicating with archives and in obtaining information from archival sources. This Genealogists have always wanted to share their research and have become big users of this method of communication.

Some members of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society embraced the electronic medium very early and have made converts of other members. Then to support their members, as well as other genealogical and historical researchers, the NBGS undertook a project of raising funds to place public access internet terminals and a printer at the Provincial Archives. The first fruits this project, Computers for Research 2000, were realized when, at their suggestion, two computers were placed in the Archives Search Room to give the public a taste of what was possible. Financially, they have raised \$2495.04 to upgrade this installation with a new computer and a printer. Of these funds, \$1500 was raised from Society activities; the remainder was donations from 6 Society members. A cheque was presented to the Archives on 25 March 2000.

SE Branch, NBGS Workshop ~~~~~

The South East branch of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society held a weekend workshop in Moncton on 14 and 15 March in which the Archives was participated. The archives presence was in the form of a research area for use of transcribed copies of records of widespread interest. These included census records, indices to vital statistics, cemetery tombstone transcriptions, church records, etc. It was very gratifying to have our presence appreciated and to have our operations favourably compared to other research institutions.

Summer Workshops and Festivals ~~~~~

Every summer the Archives staff is asked to participate in a number of reunions, festivals and workshops. For the summer of 2000 staff will have research areas available or be giving workshops at the **Miramichi Irish Festival**, the **New Brunswick Highland Games**, the **Tabusintac Old Home Week**, the **Yorkshire 2000** celebrations in Sackville, and a **Bathurst Genealogical Workshop**.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AND FINDING AIDS ~~~~~

A HIGHLIGHT – The Robert Harvie / Andrew Strahorn Collection ~~~~~

Letters that have been passed down through generations for 179 years have been donated to Provincial Archives by Jock Douglas. His ancestors were early immigrants who settled in Nash Creek in the 1800's. Mr. Douglas and his wife, visitors from England, toured New Brunswick several years ago, visiting Nash Creek as well as the Provincial Archives. During that visit he expressed an interest in depositing the letters, which had been in England since they were received by the family, in a New Brunswick repository.

These are an important addition to the recorded history of our province and especially that for the Nash Creek area. The letters are dated between 1821 – 183[] and provide a vivid description of life in New Brunswick during that time period. The person writing the letters, Robert Harvie, was married to Mary Strahorn, a distant relative to Mr. Douglas. In the letters Robert describes in great detail the long and rough passage he and his family endured by vessel from England to Chaleur Bay.

After arriving in New Brunswick, Robert and Mary decided to settle in Nash Creek. Robert wrote several times about Mary's ill health and was very concerned about her well being. He also wrote in his letters about their three children, James, Margaret, and Ann. He described the difficult work it was to be a settler here and was very proud of his accomplishments.

In his last letter Robert writes Mary's brother, Andrew, of her death. The death and funeral is described in great detail. He closes the letter with; *"many is the tears that is shed for her, give my lasts comments to family and tell them the contents of this and that I am now a poor widow with 3 small children in a foreign land at the commencement of a hard winter, the snow is 3 feet high in the woods already and the ground has been covered since the 15th of October....."*. Although Mr. and Mrs. Douglas toured all the likely burial grounds in the Nash Creek area, they were unable to find gravestones for Robert, his wife Mary or their three children.

GOVERNMENT RECORDS ~~~~~

RS17 Corporate Affairs Branch Records, 1885-1982. A 445-page revised index and listing of Letters Patent for companies, corporations, agricultural societies, etc. operating in New Brunswick as they are recorded in the Registers of Letters Patent. These Registers, on 27 reels of microfilm, provide such details as date of incorporation, date of amendment and type of amendment. The Letters themselves are not on microfilm. The index to the Registers is being added to the Archives web page.

RS71 St. John County Probate Court Files, 1785-1965. A 362 page nominal index. This incorporated the recently transferred records for 1911-1965. Series extent: 53 microfilms + 63 metres of files.

RS74 Westmorland County Probate Court Files, 1787-1984. A 194-page revised nominal index to include the recently transferred 4.2 metres of records for 1980-1984. Series extent: 22 microfilms + 47.8 metres of files.

RS141B7 New Brunswick Vital Statistics: Index to Marriages, 1911-1919. This is a continuation of the indexing project carried on by Dorothy Wiggs in cooperation with the Archives. The index is on the Archives web page. These records are on 43 microfilms.

RS141C5 New Brunswick Vital Statistics: Index to Deaths, 1920-1949, 191 microfilms. This 2393-page finding aid is a name index to certificates of registration of deaths; it also

provides microfilm numbers for the certificates on microfilm. This index is on the Archives web page.

RS306 Department of Education Administration Records, 1964-1993, 32 metres. Records consist of correspondence, minutes, reports, and statistics on a number of subjects including curriculum, school districts, enrollment, teacher training etc.

RS315 Saint John Burial Permits Index, 1889-1919. This is a name index to burial

permits issued by the Board of Health for the City of Saint John. The index includes the name of the deceased, their age, place of birth, date of death, and the microfilm number on which the complete permit may be viewed. The Burial Permits are on 13 microfilms. The index is in the process of being prepared for the web page.

RS746 Moncton Judicial District Probate Court Files, 1984-1985, 2.1 metres. 7-page index. This judicial district includes the counties of Westmorland, Albert, and Kent.

PRIVATE RECORDS ~~~~~

MC80 New Brunswick Publications, 200 additional titles. The collection consists of published family, local, and church histories, as well as historical subjects approximately 500 pages. This 500-page finding aid, 7th ed., includes author, subject and title indices.

MC793 Brenan Funeral Home & Crematorium Records, 1921-1930, addition to finding aid. The finding aid includes all biographical information from the records; i.e., name of spouse of deceased, date and place of birth, names of parents, date of death and place of burial, *as well as* a nominal index of the deceased.

MC1284 New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company Records, 1836-1905, 40 cm. A revised finding aid which includes a nominal index to the grants.

MC1396 George Hayward Records, 1984-2000, 40 cm. Additional material has been added which includes several compact disks. Mr. Hayward's records include genealogies for York and Carleton County families and his transcriptions of cemetery records, census returns, marriage records and other historical records.

MC1650 John Edgecombe Carriage Factory Records, 1843-1868, 2 cm. Revised finding aid. The records consists of 3 account books of expenses and receipts from various individuals, usually residents of Fredericton

and surrounding area. Receipts are primarily for purchases of wagons and food.

MC1939 Phoebe Chandler Racey Fonds, 1884-1893, 4 cm. on microfilm F10555. The fonds consists of a diary, correspondence, and the partial memoirs of Phoebe Chandler Racey, a granddaughter of Edward Barron Chandler.

MC2039 Fredericton Curling Club Fonds, 1882-1898, 3 cm. on microfilm F20700. Fonds consists of the first minute book of the Fredericton Curling Club.

MC2114 Fred Phillips Collection, 1930-1986, 4 metres. Fred Phillips was a prolific writer on New Brunswick historical topics, including tourism, circuses, Fredericton and the military. He was also a circus press agent and this interest is very evident in this collection.

MC2567 Alexander Monro Fonds, 1879-1896, 140 pages on microfilm F20277. Contains articles and clippings, primarily of the Tantramar area.

MC2645 Hampton Pastoral Charge United Church Records, 1876-1984, 30 cm. on microfilms F18258 & F18259. This pastoral charge includes many rural areas near Hampton in Kings County.

MC2843 New Brunswick Religious And Literary Journal, 1829-1830, on microfilm F20736. The run of this weekly newspaper is

complete. The primary features of this newspaper are articles on religion, biographies of religious notables, sermons, poetry and notices of marriages and deaths.

MC2845 Hervie [Harvie] – Strahorn [Strawhorn] Fonds, 1821-183-, 9 letters.

Most of the letters contain information about the Hervie [Harvie] family that immigrated from Scotland and settled at Nash Creek, Restigouche County.

MC2877 Ward's Creek Women's Institute Fonds, 1956-1990, 8 cm. Minutes.

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

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YES, I wish 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 1999/2000 are: 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

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/archives>. 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.