



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

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## A Treasure Trove of Maps

IT'S EASY to imagine the excitement that gripped the office of New Brunswick's Surveyor-General on the day in late 1859 when a large shipment of maps arrived from London.

The moment marked the culmination of a process that had begun more than five years earlier when the then-Surveyor-General, R.D. Wilmot, asked John Wilkinson to begin preparing a new map of the province. Wilkinson, a surveyor and draughtsman originally from Yorkshire, had gone about the work meticulously, although fre-

quently interrupted by other assignments, and now, with the arrival of 1000 copies of the map from lithographer James Wyld, geographer to the Queen and Prince Consort, the job was done.

The Wilkinson map was a great achievement for New Brunswick, whose population at the time was still well under 250,000 people. Coloured and beautifully drawn, the map showed the province in comprehensive detail. Among other things, it was the first to depict the new international boundary between New Brunswick and Maine as agreed upon by the

Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842. It also showed the New Brunswick—Quebec border, which had been settled in 1855, and delineated the boundaries of Victoria County, created in 1850. So well done was it that, nearly four decades later, William Francis Ganong, a distinguished cartographer himself, could still say it was "the greatest map which has yet been published of New Brunswick."

The story of the Wilkinson map is only one of

hundreds of such stories inherent in the map collection of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. The collection, after all, comprises some 65,000 maps of all description and purpose. They range from those, like the Wilkinson map, that depict the whole province to those that show only parts or aspects of it, such as rivers, railway and telegraph lines, municipal and county boundaries.

“We collect any maps that depict the territory of New Brunswick,” says archivist Allen Doiron, citing, by way of illustration, the earliest map in the collection, dated 1662, which shows the future province as part of the North American land mass.

All kinds of people use the maps: historical researchers, lawyers and surveyors determining property lines, consultants and others doing environmental impact studies, genealogists looking into the history and make-up of early settlements. Each can appreciate a particular map for a specific reason, or, sometimes, simply for its artistry—some of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century maps, for example, incorporated colourful illustrations of native animals like moose.



Asked if he has a favourite map in the huge collection, Doiron pauses before answering. Then he says he loves the survey plans initiated by the crown lands office for encouraging settlement and granting land. It's the history surrounding those that appeals to him. The work was done by deputy land surveyors appointed by the Surveyor-General. Many had military backgrounds, and, because they dealt with land, they were often among the most important men in their communities.

Some developed a passion for a particular part of the province. That was certainly true of an Irishman named Robert C. Minnitte who took an interest in the North Shore early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when that region was only sparsely populated. In 1826, Minnitte produced a map of a road from Bathurst to Dalhousie and the Restigouche area, the result of a survey he had undertaken inland from the coast “for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of opening a shorter and more direct communication than the present Road along the Shore.” With delicate shadings of blue, green and grey, the map shows the territory's characteristics and presents pertinent observations about the terrain along the proposed route. One stretch has “some good tracts of land, covered with a tolerable good growth of mixed woods, but considerably intersected by swamps, etc.” Another, closer to Dalhousie, is “hilly and uneven, but Good High Land,

covered with a fine growth of Pine, Birch, Maple & Spruce, etc.”

Minnitte did his job well, and the proof rests in the fact that a substantial portion of today's Route 11 follows essentially the same track that he mapped more than 175 years ago.


To date, little has been written about men like Minnitte, who played a vital role in settling New Brunswick. Many of their stories were undoubtedly compelling. But for sheer tenacity and impact, it would be hard to top that of John Wilkinson and his 1859 map. Beginning in April, 1854, he laboured at the task for the next five years, except for those times, which were numerous, when he was called to perform “other services of an urgent nature required by government.” It was finally completed in 1858 and sent off to London for engraving and printing.

When the printed copies came back late the following year, New Brunswick had the most comprehensive and informative treatment of its territory yet created. Anxious to encourage immigration and economic development, the provincial government immediately distributed it to shipping companies, government offices, newspapers and businesses in Great Britain, the British colonies and the United States. Copies were also sent to government offices, libraries, businesses and schools within the province.

A treasure trove of maps  
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The Wilkinson map, which also included “statistical memoranda” on the province, remained in use for many years, aiding settlement and development and leading

residents to a greater understanding of the territory they inhabited. Indeed, it has never completely faded from memory and application: as recently as the early 1990s, a

provincial court accepted the map in a case involving a right-of-way. 

## News from the Associates

THE ASSOCIATES took their Annual General Meeting to the Acadian Peninsula for the first time in their history, using the occasion to acquaint people in the region with the holdings and services of the Provincial Archives. The business meeting, held on the Shippagan Campus of the Université de Moncton, was followed by a reception, an exhibit of historic photos of the area and a presentation of the video “*Time and the River Flowing*”, produced by the Archives. Alfred Chiasson, Associate Board member from Lameque, made arrangements. Elected as members of the Board for the 2003-2005 period were:

Alfred Chiasson, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Edward Legere and Bill Spray.

Meetings of the Associates’ Board of Directors were held in Fredericton on September 26<sup>th</sup> when Board members also attended the official opening of the Archives repository, and on November 11<sup>th</sup> in Havelock where they hosted a programme for the public entitled “*Hollywood comes to Havelock*.”

Major ongoing projects supported by the Associates are: fund-raising for the acquisition of the original Beutel newspaper cartoons, administration of the Conservation Cooperative

and promotion of public programmes to raise the profile of the Provincial Archives. At the November meeting the Board earmarked \$20,000 for investment in the purchase of acquisitions. Several Board members are giving leadership to projects important to the Archives: Frank Morehouse is organizing the transcription of cemetery records for mounting on the Archives web site; and Cyril Donahue is preparing to conduct oral history interviews in the Miramichi area. 

### H O L L Y W O O D C O M E S T O H A V E L O C K

MORE THAN 100 people filled the Havelock Memorial Community Hall on November 12<sup>th</sup> to view the 1905 motion picture, “*A Moose Hunt in New Brunswick*,” the earliest film preserved in the holdings of the Provincial Archives.

In an illustrated talk, film historian David Folster set the stage for the film by providing

information on the pioneering days of the motion picture industry and on the renown of the Canaan area as a big game hunting destination. That was what brought two of the most important movie men in America to the area to make the first-ever motion picture about moose-hunting.

The film was part of a program presented by the Associates of the Provincial



Archives of New Brunswick who seek to make the *Marion Beyea*, provincial archivist, Mrs. Bernice Plume, Peticodiac

activities, collections and services of the Archives better



Hollywood comes to Havelock  
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known to New Brunswickers who may be interested in consulting the historical records or in donating films, photographs, and other records. Preservation of these items is vital to the understanding by future generations of the province's history.


## DR. ERNIE FORBES

AT THEIR September meeting, the Associates passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Dr. Ernie Forbes who is leaving the Board of Directors after nine years. A former Professor of History at

A highlight of the evening was the donation to the Provincial Archives of the original minute book of the Havelock Hall Committee by Mrs. Bernice Plume. She has had the volume, which dates from a November 1889 meeting, to plan the hall and

the University of New Brunswick, and now Professor Emeritus, he has written extensively on Atlantic Canada. He was a member of the founding Board of the Associates and

fund-raising, in her care for half a century. Mrs. Plume said she was pleased to know it would be preserved and available to researchers at the Provincial Archives. 

Vice President from 1994 to 2003, and was instrumental in assisting with applications for grants and funding for student assistantships. 

## STATE-OF-THE-ART ARCHIVAL STORAGE FACILITY OPENS

ON September 26 the recently expanded Provincial Archives facilities were officially opened. Dedicated by Premier Bernard Lord to the memory of former Premier Richard Bennett Hatfield, New Brunswick's longest-serving Premier, the Richard Bennett Hatfield Archives Complex is comprised of the original Bonar Law-Bennett Building that has housed the Provincial Archives since 1968 and the new Archives Storage Facility, a state-of-the-art building that will house permanently-valuable records.

When the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick opened, a 15-year projection was given for the life of the storage area. That life-span was realized by the early 1980s. Archives staff began

analyzing needs, measuring and projecting growth and making presentations outlining the need for additional space for records storage. They were dedicated to putting the needs of the records first – assiduously appraising records to retain only those records with legal, administrative and historical value to minimize storage requirements, working from a number of storage sites, reacting to emergencies and rescuing records, compensating, however they could, for inadequacies in the storage areas. They were ingenious in identifying and promoting solutions to the long-term storage needs.

The repository meets these needs, providing storage for 33 km. of records utilizing high tech, high-density stor-

age. The strictly controlled environment, featuring low temperature and humidity, will dramatically extend the life of paper records. It is equipped with electronically-controlled security and fire protection systems and ultra sensitive air filtration. A separate vault maintaining a temperature of -5°C will retard deterioration in acetate film and preserve colour materials that are prone to fading. Other features of the facility are high efficiency filters and scrubbers to remove damaging pollutants, a high sensitivity laser smoke detection system and elimination of sources of fire risk, controlled entry, an electronic security system and a building design that blocks entry of pests.

State-of-the-art archival storage facility opens  
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The new facility, the design of architect Peter Fellows, is impressive. It respects the architecture of the Bonar Law-Bennett building that originally housed the entire Archives. It is constructed of similar materials - red and orange brick and glass block with sandstone details. It features strings of horizontal brick between pilasters on the exterior, symbolizing the levels of shelves in the storage vault, while alternating courses of vertical brick reflect the individual document boxes in their

organized rows. The wide, overhanging roof of the storage facility shelters the upper cornice which is clad in a band of interlocking metal tiles. Huge carved sandstone medallions spell out **ARCHIVES** - a bilingual crown that is an indicator to the public of the building's function. 🗺



**I-r, Intergovernmental and International Relations Minister Percy Mockler, Supply and Services Minister and Deputy Premier Dale Graham, Premier Bernard Lord, Marion Beyea provincial archivist** (Harry Mullin Photography)

## ACQUISITIONS

**MC3148 Register of voluntary enlistments in Charlotte County.** Records the voluntary recruitment of 553 men in Charlotte County, New Brunswick for service overseas during the First World War, dating from 27 September 1915, when a major recruiting drive was underway in the Province, until 30 August 1917, the day after Prime Minister Robert Borden's Military Service Act became law. Each entry provides the name of the recruit, his place of residence, age at recruitment, marital status, the unit to which he was assigned, date of enlistment, and nationality. Most of the men were Canadians, natives of Charlotte County; other places of residence include: Albert, St. John, York, Carleton, and Kings counties in N.B.; Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island; Ontario; Maine; England; Ireland; Scotland; Newfoundland; Denmark; and

Romania. A very few gave their nationality as Italian, Danish, Norwegian, Russian or Syrian. A few notations, such as "stopped by mother", "discharged", "wife objected" or "rejected" are recorded in the margins.

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**P216. Walter R. Long "Retirement Album" [1955-1995].** Long is a retired "carman", living in South Devon, and the last employee to retire at Devon February 28, 1989 after 45 years of service with the railway. Included are retirement photos and photos of railway employees (identified) usually gathered in front of a railway station, a 1995 photo of the South Devon Station.

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# NEW FINDING AIDS

## GOVERNMENT RECORDS

**RS8 Executive Council: New Brunswick Microfilm Series, 1784-1900.** Revised finding aid of 45 pages to the 76 microfilms in this series.

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**RS13 Provincial Secretary: Correspondence, 1785 - 1977** 10 m. Revised finding aid covering approximately 2 metres of additional material. Subjects covered: estates, boundaries, mining, timber, exhibitions, customs, schools, militia, legislation, crime, finances, tax administration, transportation, motor vehicle administration, speeches.

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**RS20 Provincial Secretary: Tax Administration Records, 1940, 1947-1968** .3 m.

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**RS26 Legislative Assembly: Committee Records, 1832-1989** 3.5 m. Revised finding aid. Subjects covered: railways, agriculture, aquaculture, alcohol and drug abuse, environment, fisheries, elections, industry, land use, Canadian Constitution (Meech Lake).

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**RS102 Records of the Deputy Minister of the Department of the Provincial Secretary, 1904-1978** 5.7 m. Subjects covered: motor vehicle administration, amusements, schools, highways, companies, taxation, dance halls, theatres, racetrack gambling, school property inventory.

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**RS133 Motor Vehicle Branch Records, 1935, 1946-1989** 2.7 m. Subjects covered: motor vehicle administration, legislation, highway safety.

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**RS141/B7 Indexes to Provincial Returns of Marriages, 1927-1929, 1930-1934, 1946-1951** (1645 pages in total).

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**RS141/C4 Indexes to Provincial Returns of Death, 1815 (1888-1893) - 1893).** Only approximately 155 death returns predate 1888. (570 pages in total).

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**RS427/C Records of the Municipality Of Saint John - Lease Book, 1785 - 1817** 2 cm. Account book kept by the Corporation of the City of Saint John to record rents levied and paid mostly for City lots and stalls in the City Market, but also containing accounts relating to fishing lots, rent of court room, wharfage, anchorage money, a burial, and payments for freedom. The Archives has also produced a 4 page nominal index to the book. Microfilm F22582.

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**RS538 Provincial Secretary: Warrants, Appointments and Commissions, 1784-1965** 2.4 m. Revised finding aid. Subjects covered: civil lists, licencing, registrars, clerks, auctioneers.

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**RS540 Provincial Secretary: Receiver General Administration Records, 1823-1937** 2 m. Revised finding aid. Subjects covered: civil list, casual revenue, disputed territory fund, government revenue, duties, fees, taxes, appropriations.

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**RS624 Provincial Secretary: Companies Administration Records, 1838-1943** .5 m. Revised finding aid.

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**RS654 New Brunswick Bicentennial Commission Records, 1974-1984** 4.1 m. Subjects covered: New Brunswick history, community events, publications, tourism.

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**RS1055 Records of the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 1962-1984** 2.4 m. Subjects covered: Irish Moss, Fishermen's Development Board, Fishermen's Loan Board, Miramichi River Channel study, paper mill effluents, fish plants, Kouchibouguac Park.

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**RS1056 Records of the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 1936, 1944-1977** 1.5 m. Subjects covered: Fisherman's Loan Board, Fishermen's Union, environment, Kouchibouguac Park, fish-processing plants, fish processing companies.

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## PRIVATE RECORDS

THE Private Sector Records Section at the Archives has completed the revision of 890 finding aids. The finding aids describe records at the fonds (collection) level and, in some cases, supplement inventories that have been previously available. This huge project has seen the proper description of many collections for the first

time according to the recently established national standards Rules of Archival Description (RAD) and also the re-description of collections, where little information about the context of the records had formerly been available. This ongoing project has been funded by the CAIN (Canadian Archival Information Network)

project --- with matching financial contributions coming from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage.

The descriptions are searchable on the Archives Canada (formerly CAIN) website:

<http://www.archivescanada.ca/>

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### **MC3133 Lincoln United Church fonds, 1957-2002**

**MC3135 Synod of the Atlantic Provinces of the Presbyterian Church in Canada fonds: [1886, 1914, 1923-1989]** consists solely of the published, and in many cases, signed Minutes of the (Presbyterian) Synod of the Maritime Provinces, later re-named the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Microfilms: F22597-F22599; F22826.

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**MC3136 Boiestown Pastoral Charge fonds: [1867-1998]** records of Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Boiestown, Bloomfield Ridge and Holtville and area; Church Registers dating back to the 1870s; Minutes of church boards and ladies groups. Microfilm: F22827-F22832.

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**MC223 K2 Anglican Parish of Kingston fonds: [1784-1991]** Parish Registers dating back to 1816 (contains a few Baptisms for 1786); Vestry Minutes, 1784-1856; 1921-1971; Registers of Service, 1920s-1970s; legal & financial records; Kingston Cemetery Epitaphs copied by Archdeacon W.O. Raymond. Microfilm F22576-F22579.

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**MC3108 Washademoak Women's Institute fonds: [1939-1995]** Minute books. Microfilm F22575.

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**MC3128 Marcia Cheney Genealogical Collection: [1960s-[2002]]**; Genealogies/genealogical notes for Grand Manan families prepared by long-time genealogist and local historian. Microfilm F22513-F22517.

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**MC3145 Colonial and Indian Exhibition diploma [1886]**. 55 x 75 cm., colour. The 1886 Colonial and Indian Exhibition was held in South Kensington, London, England. It was presented to Messrs. E. Cogswell & Co. possibly one of the participants from N.B.

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**MC3117 Willis Lodge No.17, Protestant Association of 'Prentice Boys of America fonds. [1894, 1912-1919, 1937]** 5.5 cm. Textual records including Minute Books 1905-1906, 1912-1916, 1919 and 1937, Account Book, 1905-1919, warrant authorizing the establishment of Lodge No. 17, 1894. Fraternal organization, established in 1850 to honour the Protestant apprentices who successfully defended Londonderry, a Protestant stronghold in Northern Ireland, against the Catholic forces of James II during the revolution of 1688. Willis Lodge No. 17 was formed at Woodstock, N.B. with Willis Ketch as first Master, in December 1894.

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## ADDITIONS TO ARCHIVES WEBSITE

### Canoeing on the St. John River

Take a virtual trip down the upper St. John River during the summer of 1903.

RS141C4Vital Stats. Provincial Returns of Deaths: 1815-1893, updated

Cemeteries. Kent County cemeteries, Carleton County cemeteries

RS141 Marriages. Includes marriages from 1882-1940 and 1946-1951.

Historical Images of New Brunswick. This database contains 1,999 historical images of N.B.

RS655 Petitions for Teachers' Licenses & Payment. Index of every teacher requesting a license or payment for teaching services, 1812-1882.

RS686 Land Grants. This index contains information on more than 54,000 individuals and corporate bodies who acquired Crown land between 1784 and 1997.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!** is published twice yearly. Inquiries about the newsletter should be addressed to; Paula Glendenning, c/o Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1 Or e-mail to [provincial.archives@gnb.ca](mailto:provincial.archives@gnb.ca)

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** of The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick 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 2003/2004 are: President, Gwen Davies, Alfred Chiasson, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Joe Knockwood, Jocelyne LeBel, Edward Leger, Frank Morehouse, Mark Pedersen, Elizabeth Sewell, and Bill Spray.

ARCHIVE WEBSITE <http://archives.gnb.ca> provides general information on the Archives, its holdings, hours of operation and its programs as well as information on the Associates of the Archives. Also available are some general guides to holdings and genealogical guides for each county. Additional information continues to be added and existing information is updated to reflect changes in publications dealing with records management and electronic records, information on exhibits and finding aids, and growing databases.

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If you wish to become an Associate, please complete the enclosed form.  
Contributions are welcome and tax receipts will be provided.