



# Silhouettes

Spring 2010  
Number 30

The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

## The Irish



## in New Brunswick

*Pokeshaw Island, 1950, near the homestead of the Irish Riordon family.*

F69-G-201

## Silhouettes

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**THE ASSOCIATES OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

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# An Irish addition to PANB website

WHEN DISCUSSING the demographics of our province, most people would say with confident certainty that French and English make up the majority of New Brunswickers' ethnic backgrounds. But did you know that coming in third on the census list are the Irish?

The main waves of Irish immigrants arrived during the mid-19th century. By the 1850s, over 500,000 Irish immi-

grants had made new homes in British North America. New Brunswick's population swelled. The Irish were ensconced in every facet of society and geographical location of the colony—a colony that 70 years earlier was nearly called 'New Ireland' by officials considering a good name for the soon-to-be 'province'.

Despite the significant impact on every aspect of life here—education, religion, politics, place names, arts,

entertainment and culture in general—the history of Irish immigration and settlement in NB has suffered from a lack of proper attention.

That is about to change. The Provincial Archives of NB will unveil in May, 2010, the most comprehensive website of Irish-related information ever assembled in Canada. The website—called "The New Brunswick Irish Web Portal" and located on PANB's own website [www.gnb.ca/archives](http://www.gnb.ca/archives)—is the proverbial 'crock of gold'.

There is a wealth of materials in the Provincial Archives' holdings on the Irish experience of immigration and re-settlement, and the related topics and materials go beyond the expected norms. These resources, including teacher's petitions highlighting the impact of Irish teachers in New Brunswick education; Almshouse records reflecting the state of New Brunswick's welfare system; as well as searchable databases, constituted from passenger lists, Irish entries from the 1851 and 1861 census, and listings of "surplus" tenants sent to St Andrews, are brought together in PANB's Irish Portal project. When combined with digitized records consisting of manuscript collections, the Provincial Secretary's Immigration Records, newspaper articles and virtual exhibits, these resources come alive to reveal the complexity of the Irish emigrant's life in our province.

This website is the most sophisticated web initiative PANB has ever undertaken. Already interest is being signaled from historians, genealogists and colleagues both here in New Brunswick, at the national level and abroad in Ireland. The project was made possible through the assistance of the Canadian Culture Online program of Canadian Heritage, Library and Archives Canada, and the Canadian Council of Archives. ■

# Patrick Bennett, the unknown Irish crusader

IN 1831, discerning readers of the *New Brunswick Courier*, in St. John (which is how the city then spelled its name), knew immediately that a rare individual had landed in their midst.

One Patrick Bennett, lately arrived from Ireland, via St. Andrews, N.B., advertised that he could teach "short hand writing" in four lessons. If he failed to do so, a pupil's fee of four dollars would be refunded in its entirety. Readers also learned that, before placing his advertisement, Bennett had checked with another teacher of stenography in the city to determine that, in starting this venture, he wouldn't be harming the latter's business.

Thus was St. John introduced to a man who would become an earnest and feisty presence in the city for the next

half-century, a teacher, public debater, publisher, journalist, and champion of the Irish immigrant. And yet his story, ultimately tragic, is essentially unknown today.

Denis Noel, who heads the sound and moving images section of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, first encountered Bennett's name more than a decade ago. The newspaper advertisement placed by this "professor of stenography," and especially its generous provisions, so intrigued him that he has spent a dozen years researching Bennett in his spare time.

What has emerged is the sense of a man who, more than anything, sought to be a crusading journalist, almost at any cost. "The press," he believed, "is an engine whose tongue is thunder to the

## WEB LAUNCH

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick  
& The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of NB

present:

# "The New Brunswick Irish Web Portal"

May 17, 2010 • 6:30 p.m.

PANB Exhibit Hall

Website demonstration  
Reception

Exhibits: "In the Wake of Dark Passage"  
& "An Honourable Independence"

RSVP by May 14, 2010 • (506) 444-4505 • [susan.shalala@gnb.ca](mailto:susan.shalala@gnb.ca)

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick  
23 Dineen Drive, UNB Campus, Fredericton



Masthead of one newspaper in which Bennett presented his strong pro-Irish views



tyrant, and a most powerful instrument for constitutional liberty.” Nothing deterred him in a land he perceived to be well stocked with tyrants, and in which personal liberties were regularly trampled upon.

Bennett started, in 1836, with *The Irishman*, a weekly newspaper aimed at St. John’s Irish population but hoping for a wider audience; he thought his gentle, written sketches of the homeland could help overcome anti-Irish prejudice in the city. But both *The Irishman* and a local literary magazine he started were gone within a year.

In the early 1840s, Bennett launched the *Liberator and Irish Advocate*, which was said to be anti-Catholic, although it was sometimes hard to tell on which side of the sectarian fence he stood. Years later, when he was being regularly admitted to the Saint John Alms House, Bennett first listed his religion as Protestant and, later, as Roman Catholic. He nonetheless managed, in 1845, to get himself convicted for libeling three men and was fined 25 pounds.

By 1847, his newspaper had become the *True Liberator*, and Bennett himself had rounded into top form. Within sight of the city was Partridge Island, where thousands of Irish immigrants were quarantined under horrible conditions. He attacked those responsible. “Why are they deaf to the voice of humanity, and to the language which, in dying groans, portrays the suffering of human beings, buffeted by adversity and at the mercy of the stranger?”

There was apparent corruption, notably with the operator of the single boat plying between the island and the mainland. His craft was “always laden with provisions, sold at nearly double price to unfortunate creatures famishing with unutterable privations”. The man was a Shylock “making his fortune from

a people plunged in the lowest abyss of earthly misery”.

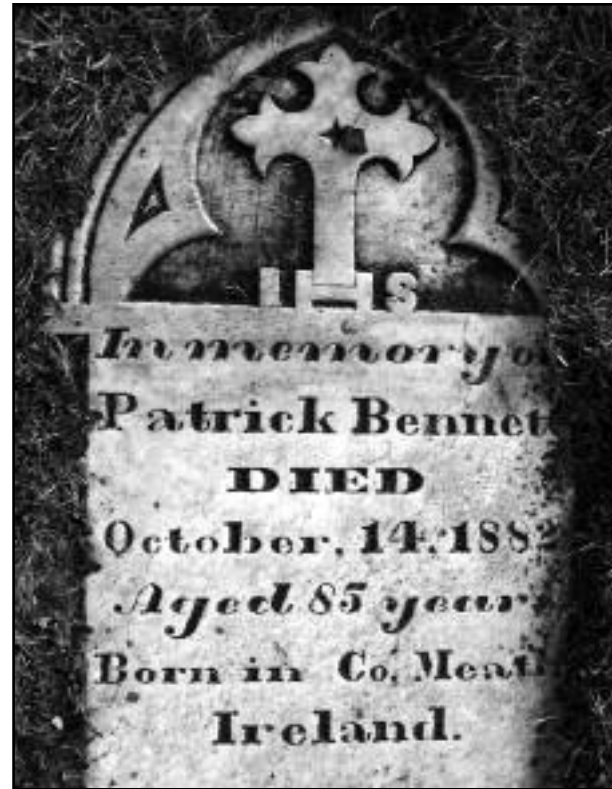
Reprinting some of Bennett’s journalism a quarter-century later, another St. John paper, the *New Dominion and True Humorist*, said he was not only the most polished newspaper writer in New Brunswick but also one “as outspoken and fearless as he was brilliant”.

But not invincible. In 1848, he and his wife Jane suffered a terrible personal blow when their four-year-old son, Thomas Edward, died. The Bennetts had had their share of hardships, including what was surely a hand-to-mouth existence, and Jane had once been attacked and beaten by four men. But the loss of their only child was more than they could handle.

Patrick’s descent did not begin immediately, but he eventually began turning up drunk in public places, for which he was fined and sent to the gaol. In one court appearance, the magistrate told him: “I am sorry to see you here again.”

“And I am sorry, too”, Bennett replied. “I cannot find words to express the remorse I feel at having yielded to temptation again. . . . I am sorry to say that when under the influence of these paroxysms, which seize me periodically, I lose all control of myself, and allow the passion for drink to master me; that is the weak point of my character. Yet, on reviewing my life, I can say that it has not been idle; that I have not been a barren fig tree.”

The magistrate fined Bennett, then paid the fine himself.



Patrick Bennet’s tombstone in Saint John.

For all the admiration he held within the community, Bennett was, beginning in the mid-1860s, a regular return tenant at the Alms House. He died there in 1882, at the age of 85.

Another sympathizer, Thomas Furlong, a local wine merchant and liquor importer, gave money so that his grave in the Catholic Cemetery might be marked with a tablet of Italian marble. Though it didn’t make it to his headstone, Bennett had already written his epitaph in a poem he wrote years before during one of his stays at the Alms House:

“A Pedagogue by choice or fate,  
Or some rash oath that fortune swore;  
I show that little golden gate,  
That opens to the fields of lore,  
The [soft] retentive mind of youth,  
With lofty principle I line;  
Connecting tender thoughts with truth,  
This noble ill paid task is mine.” ■

# The difficult road to land ownership

In 1839 John Riordon, an 1822 immigrant to New Brunswick from Cork, Ireland, petitioned Lt. Governor Sir John Harvey for 100 acres of land at the rear of a lot granted to his brother, Patrick, in New Bandon. (New Bandon is located on the Bay of Chaleur in Gloucester County.) John’s petition stated that he had never received any land from the Crown and that he had already made improvements on the acreage.

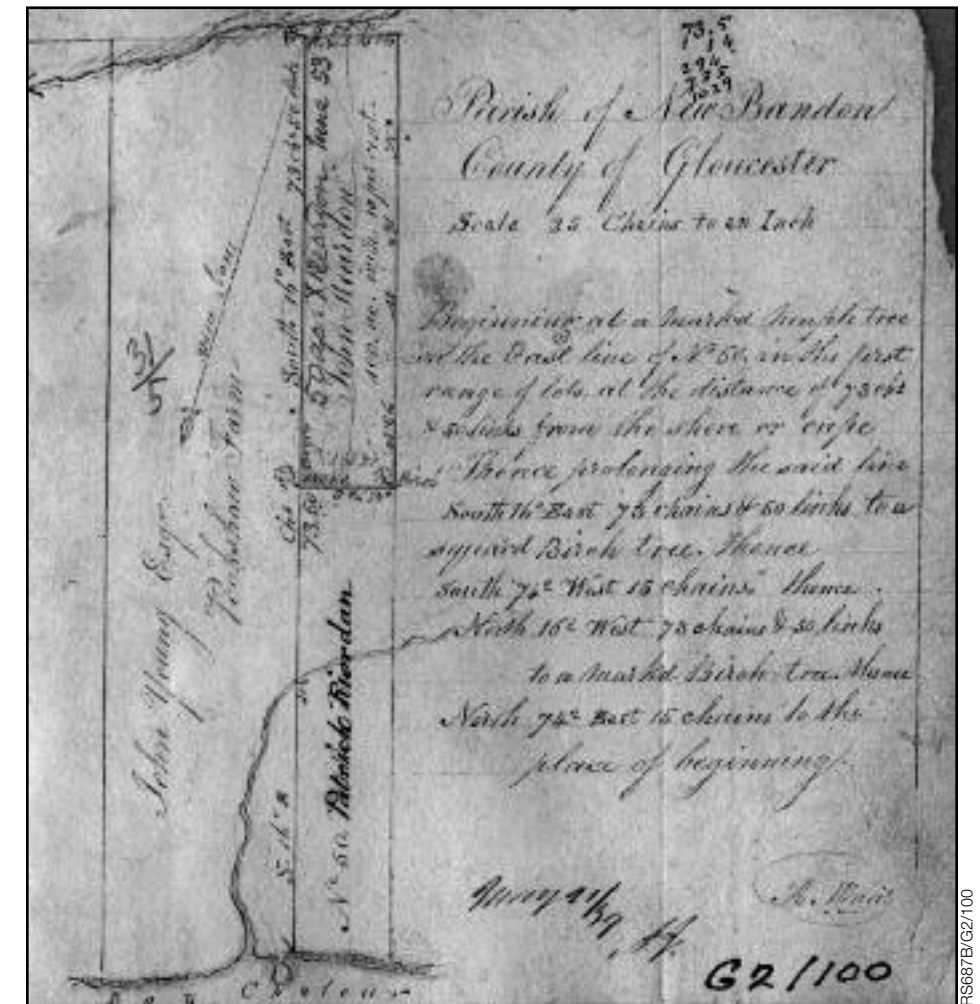
Success of petitioners in this area in obtaining the grants they identified, and where they were often already residing, was uncertain when William End was appointed Justice of the Peace in Bathurst in 1837. End, who became known as a defender of the Irish and Acadians, took up their cause informing officials in distant Fredericton of the merits of the petitioners’ cases and of the work they had done to satisfy the grant requirements. End’s notation to John Riordon’s petition, relating the latter’s tragic circumstances, demonstrates this. Although Riordon was not granted the land he requested, he did settle in the area and his sons became successful farmers and entrepreneurs. They owned grist, carding and saw mills, a general store, and fishing and lumbering operations, and held positions in the community. John’s descendants live in Pokeshaw to this day. See also p. 12 centrefold.

Survey plan, 1839, showing lot for which John Riordon petitioned.

*“I cannot refrain from laying the case of the unfortunate petitioner before His Excellency and the Honorable Council. —*

*He has a sickly wife and seven children all dependant on his labour—about four years ago he was caught in a snow storm, and had both his feet so frozen that all his toes dropped off—in this condition, he continued to cultivate his clearance for the support of his family—he got a little better and was at length able to go into the woods for firewood. While thus employed a tree fell upon him and broke his left arm—far removed from proper assistance he lingered a long time under this injury and his feet again became very troublesome. He is a hardworking and sober man and seemed determined to die rather than apply for aid to the parish. When his arm began to mend his feet still remained so painful that he was for several months unable to stand. Notwithstanding this accumulation of misery he has persevered in supporting his family, and, as I am credibly informed has frequently been seen at the earliest dawn of day, assisted only by his eldest child, a girl of ten, on his knees, his left arm bound up, hoeing his potatoes with the right unable either to stand or use the left arm. “*

January 24 1839  
W. End



# PANB petitions valuable component of Atlantic Canada Website

A NEW WEBSITE on the Atlantic Canada Virtual Archives Portal, *Contested Terrain: Aboriginal Land Petitions in New Brunswick, 1786-1878*, posts digital images and transcriptions of 90 land petitions written by the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Passamaquoddy inhabitants of New Brunswick who were required to follow the same procedure to obtain land grants as others coming to the colony after its establishment in 1784.

The Provincial Archives, which holds the original petitions, was a partner in the undertaking with the University of New Brunswick's Electronic Text

Centre. It is the second project for the partners involving land petitions that the Provincial Archives holds in original form. The first project, *Black Loyalists in New Brunswick, 1783 - 1854*, is based on the petitions of African Americans who moved to New Brunswick during the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Both projects were initiated and directed by Dr. Margaret Conrad who recently retired as the Chair in Atlantic Studies at the University of New Brunswick.

The land petitions contain a wealth of information on colonial New Brunswick and its inhabitants.

Individuals or groups seeking a grant of Crown land would give evidence of their need of the land by describing their families and their economic situation and would outline their military activities or other service to the Crown that would support their case. The petitions made available on the Atlantic Portal are a small proportion of thousands at the Provincial Archives in RS108. An index to these petitions, 1783 - 1918 can be found on the Provincial Archives website: [www.gnb.ca/archives](http://www.gnb.ca/archives)

The Atlantic Canada Virtual Archives Portal can be accessed at: <http://atlanticportal.hil.unb.ca/acva> ■

# Marilee McLean, 1971 - 2010

MARILEE McLEAN joined the staff of the Provincial Archives in 1997. Early on she shared the astonishment of many who first visit the archives. The massive amount of information stored in the boxes was overwhelming and how she could contribute to the process of unraveling the data and detail hidden in the files. This early, outward shyness was soon shed to reveal her determination to not just do a good job, but do the job right. Like all of us, she remained astonished about the insights she learned about New Brunswick's past from the documents she worked on. Marilee held herself to a high standard and at times would question her contribution or would become frustrated as she encountered records with difficult handwriting or information that didn't seem to fit the context in which she found it. However more often than not in such cases, she had figured out the problem and was just looking for confirmation that her interpretation was accurate.

Her happy and easy going personality and keen sense of humour made her popular among staff but frivolity had its place and she had little patience for nonsense. When that line was crossed, in her opinion, she would often be heard to say "get a grip." Always empathic, she expressed concern when other staff members were having a difficult day. Not always a morning person, especially if one her favorite sports teams had fared poorly late the night before, a coffee would perk up her spirits and she was ready to tackle the next project.

Sadly, Marilee died on March 31st after a brief illness. She is survived by her parents Dwain and Joan McLean, three sisters and brothers-in-law, and four nephews and two nieces.

Her lasting legacy to the Provincial Archives and to researchers who use Archives' records will be her careful work in transcribing records and building indexes and databases that will make these records more accessible. Her efforts will reduce the amount of time people take to find the specific record for their research and in some cases

allow people to find records they might otherwise have missed. She was a productive and dedicated worker. Among the projects she completed or worked on were: **Lovell's 1871 Directory, the 1896 Provincial Directory, the 1861 Kent County Census, the 1871 Kent County Census, One ward in the 1881 St. John County Census and Anglican Baptism Records for the Parishes of: Campobello, Carleton (Saint John), St. Luke's, Saint John, St. Mary, Saint John and St. James, Saint John.** ■



Marilee McLean

## The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

*present:*

### Searching for your Scottish ancestors

Saint John Free Public Library

June 17, 2010 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Patricia Whatley, University Archivist and Director of on-line studies in archives and family history at Dundee University.

# Valued Archives staff members retire

## Dale Cogswell

**D**ALE COGSWELL began his career at the Provincial Archives in January 1976 soon after his completion of a Masters degree in history at the University of New Brunswick. This was the Provincial Archives' formative period—its establishment having been only eight years earlier—and Dale is to be credited, along with several other long-time colleagues, with building the foundations of the institution. They introduced and refined the systems that control and organize the historical records both physically and intellectually, Dale's particular contribution being the records group/ series system that accommodates the changing structure of government over the years with new departments and the transfer of branches and responsibilities.

Dale became head of the Government Records Archives Unit in 1977, a position that brought many demands. New Brunswick's late start in creating a Provincial Archives meant 182 years of historical records had to be identified, given order, and described while continuing additions of more recent records arrived. Always with an eye to accuracy, archival principles and the needs of future researchers, Dale prepared or led the preparation of finding aids for the most fundamental and important records of our province including the early records of cabinet, land petitions, court records, vital statistics, municipal records and hundreds more. As well, he initiated work on Archives-wide guides that were lacking, such as the subject index to microfilm. He played a critical role in deciding

what government records would survive to document the life and development of New Brunswick, analyzing and making recommendations on the long term value of records as part of the records retention scheduling process,

In 1995 Dale took on management of the entire Government Records Section with added responsibility for the Records Management and Records Centre Units and eventually the Micrographics and Forms Units. He worked closely with civil servants and officials from many parts of government and the justice system and his knowledge and advice reflected positively and added credibility to the role of the Archives. This is demonstrated in a very significant achievement of Dale's, the implementing of records scheduling in the office of the Premier for the transfer of records to the Archives. A government colleague summed up Dale as the very embodiment of the trusted, professional provider of impeccable public service that all of us within the New Brunswick public service aspire to be.

Dale found one of the most satisfying aspects of his work to be "helping people find the impossible, assisting them in finding records for their court case or their book or some legal issue". His success in this was based on his careful listening and ability to identify the real question or need, and then drawing on his vast knowledge of the records.

Years of making complex and critical decisions regarding access to archival



*Dale Cogswell*

records led to Dale assisting in developing New Brunswick's first privacy legislation and taking responsibility for coordination of government's approach to protection of privacy under it.

Dale's intellect, judgment, knowledge, clarity in written and spoken expression, his ability to focus and complete tasks however large and daunting, and his commitment to delivering what he promised have had a great deal to do with the advancement of the Provincial Archives over the 34 years of his career. Moreover, he has been a prodigious worker and was able to inspire staff who worked with him through example, mentoring, guidance in the principles

and philosophy of archives and records management, support and respect. His enthusiasm energized his colleagues.

Dale also employed various strategies to tackle the large demands facing the program including tapping into the knowledge and energies of volunteers. The products of their diligence have been invaluable in furthering the Archives objectives of making historical records accessible for research. Dale was an early and enthusiastic embracer of information technology for Archives and worked to learn how such technology would make the past accessible.

There is no doubt that Dale will be busy in retirement with his wife, Rosalie, and their three sons. He has served his church in a leadership capacity for many years. He has talents and interests ranging from an eclectic taste in music, collections of LPs, classic movies, and rare books, an appetite for study and reading on historiography, history, and many other topics.

Current and future New Brunswickers will benefit from Dale's commitment to the Archives, exhibited in 34 years of service, a commitment that stems from his love for his native province and his interest in all aspects of its history.

## Bob Whitlock

**B**OB WHITLOCK retired as Supervisor of the Records Centre in October 2009 after a 40 year career with the Provincial Archives. During these years Bob progressed from being one of the Province's first records centre clerks to having oversight of the entire records centre operations. As the Provincial Archives program grew and took on more complexities, so Bob became ever more

integral to that program because of his knowledge, work ethic, and helpfulness.

As a beginning stores clerk he ensured that those records of government and the courts that were not required for use on a frequent basis (i.e. 'semi-active') were picked up from offices around the province and safely transferred to low-cost, efficient storage at the provincial records centre. The importance of these records for the citizens and government of the province was belied by the sub-standard conditions in which they were stored, and an ongoing feature of Bob's work over the years was careful control of the records during the moves from a flood-prone Quonset hut in Douglas to a less-than-adequate second-floor back-room in the Military Compound until the final relocation in 1978 to a more appropriate warehouse outfitted for the purpose of records storage in the Industrial Park.

Bob's work also entailed return of the records when they were required for use by their creators and their ultimate destruction or transfer to archives depending on their enduring value. The work processes changed during Bob's tenure from overseeing the burning of sensitive and confidential records at the City dump to delivery for shredding, from responding to clients' telephone questions to responding to e-mail requests, and from manual systems of control to automated. All the while, Bob

adapted and made significant contributions toward implementing change and modernizing the program.

A hallmark of Bob's service was the care he took of the records and the commitment he had to solving problems for departmental records managers unable to accurately identify the records they needed to recall—complicated by the challenge to control of the records during the frequent moves, the departmental structural and mandate changes, and



*Bob Whitlock*

the immediacy of unscheduled events such as floods which necessitated the rapid intake of records.

Bob was the stalwart at the records centre as other staff came and went. His abilities and conscientiousness contributed immeasurably to the administration of government and preservation of archival records. Any records management successes of the present or future owe an incalculable gratitude to Bob, and good employees like him who helped build the program from the ground up. ■



# News from the Associates

THE ASSOCIATES have been successful in two applications for funding to support programs at the Archives. The first resulted in a grant from the Young Canada Works Program administered by the Canadian Council of Archives and funded by the Department of Heritage, Government of Canada. It will permit the employment a student for twelve weeks this summer in the Associates Conservation Cooperative this summer. The position

will focus on the preservation of archival holdings for archival institutions and historical societies in New Brunswick.

The second provides a grant of \$1500 through the Arts, Culture and Heritage Funding Program 2010 of the City of Fredericton for the development of an exhibit—*Juliana's Fredericton*—and will depict life in Fredericton ca. 1865 to 1870 when writer and artist Juliana Horatio Ewing resided here for two years with her husband, Major

Alexander Ewing, army paymaster.

The display will be complemented by a live dramatization of Juliana's life as a writer and artist. The exhibit will open to the public on July 5 at 2:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall of PANB. The exhibit will continue from July through September, with live performances each Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening in August beginning at 7:00 pm. For further information, please call the Archives at (506) 453-2122. ■



Studio portrait of Mrs. Juliana and Major Alexander Ewing with their dog Trouvé, ca. 1869.

## YOU ARE INVITED EXHIBIT OPENING

**'Juliana's Fredericton'**  
— a portrait of the Fredericton experienced  
by writer and artist Juliana Ewing  
when she resided here with her husband  
Major Alexander Ewing, 1867-1869

**Monday, July 5, 2010 • 2:30 p.m.**  
**PANB Exhibit Hall**

The exhibit will continue from July through September. Live dramatization of Juliana's life performed each Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening at 7 p.m. throughout August.

**Provincial Archives of New Brunswick**  
23 Dineen Drive, UNB Campus  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3  
(506) 453-2122

# NEW AT THE ARCHIVES

## New Finding Aids

### Government Records

**RS419 Fredericton Municipal Records**, 1848-2004; 97 m. This revised finding aid encompasses new additions to the series, and covers all aspects of the city's history, including development, planning, tourism, taxation, etc.

**RS545 New Brunswick Travel Bureau Records**, 1935-1968; 4.8 m. This finding aid provides improved access to the early history of tourism promotion within the province. A large proportion of the material was generated by the office of Robert A. Tweedie, who was appointed Director of the New Brunswick Bureau of Information and Tourist Travel in 1951. Under his direction the province started a number of campaigns and projects to enhance the cultural development of New Brunswick. This included the development of the Old Manse Library, the UNB Law Library, and Newcastle's Town Hall and Theatre. Other projects related to tourism included a campaign to eliminate ragweed, highway improvements, skating rinks, and the development of regional tourist bureaus. After 1956, when the New Brunswick Bureau of Information and Tourist Travel became the New Brunswick Travel Bureau, Tweedie continued to promote cultural and tourist development by enhancing New Brunswick's tourist attractions and festivals. As director he kept regular correspondence with government officials, and celebrities who visited the province or made a special guest appearance. Tweedie retired in 1969.

**RS170 Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Board Records**, 1946-1996; 4.2 m. This series documents government's support to fishers and the fishing industry, including funding for, purchase and upgrading of vessels, aquaculture projects, boatbuilding, and compensation for storm damage.

### Private Records

**MC643 Aaron Jones fonds** (.5cm, 1843-1845). Account book relating to Jones general store, located at The Bend. Records names of customers, date, items purchased, sums owed, and amounts paid. Contains the names of a number of household heads who lived in the area prior to 1851, the year of the first official census.

**MC1006 Clark family fonds** (3cm., 1893-1901). Primarily correspondence, financial, and legal records relating to William A. Clark (1893-1957); also a few accounts and legal records of his father, George W. Clark, a Fredericton shoemaker; a single letter to his sister, Ida Clark; and a few other documents. Most of the letters addressed to William A. Clark were written by his friend, Nellie, while he was working at Sewell's Camp, in Victoria County (October 1900 to February 1901). Beside personal news, Nellie comments on the death of Queen Victoria (1901) and the return of local boys who fought in the South African War (Boer War).

**MC1093 St. Croix Art Club fonds** (revised) (20cm., 1953-1975). The St. Croix Art Club was functioning in St. Stephen by 1953 and probably before that date. It was reorganized several times over the course of its existence; members voted to disband in 1974. This fond contains administrative records, including minutes, 1962-1975, and a few records of the Maritime Art Association and other arts groups.

**MC1109 Saint John Cornet Band music collection** (.45cm, pre-1968). Organized on 15 November 1874 at a time when cornet bands were popular throughout North America members of the Saint John City Cornet Band were drawn from two bands organized by local Roman Catholics, the Christian Brothers and Father Matthews. The Band was well-known to city residents and played at public gatherings, sporting events, special ceremonies, church picnics and parades. In 1893 the band was invited to perform at the Chicago World's Fair. The band maintained a diverse repertoire that included light opera, spirituals, patriotic selections, fox trots, and marches. The Band was committed to giving back to the community, raising funds for the erection of public bandstands, on Chipman Hill, in 1899, and in King Square (King Edward VII Memorial Bandstand), in 1909.

**MC1121 Official souvenir program of the landing at Shediac, N.B. of the Italian Air Armada**, July 13, 1933 (topp., [1933]) The Italian Air Armada, commanded by Fascist leader Benito Mussolini's minister of aviation, General Italo Balbo (1896-1940) stopped in Shediac Bay en route to the Century of Progress Fair at Chicago. The flotilla was greeted by a guard of honour from the Royal Canadian Navy destroyer H.M.C.S. Saguenay and hundreds of spectators.

**MC1126 Abe Asoyuf fonds** (2.5cm, 1938-1946) Account book for Asoyuf's wholesale business, selling salmon and lobster to customers in NB, NS, Québec, Ontario and elsewhere. Contains names of fishermen, amount of fish purchased, prices. The son of Anna and Jim Asoyuf, Abraham (Abe) (c1889-1976), was born in Lebanon and immigrated to New Brunswick with his brother and sister prior to 1910. He settled at Newcastle, Northumberland County.

**MC1176 Capt. C.F. Inches fonds** (2cm., 1916-1918) Born in Saint John and educated at the Law School in that city, Inches (1883-1956) served in France during World War I, being named commander of the 1st Canadian Heavy Battery. 5 army (field service) correspondence books relate to his tour of duty in France, in 1916, with the Battery. Records information about administration duties, ammunition, equipment, weapons, horses, awarding of honours and medals, charges of insolence and desertion, military court martials, attack plans, activities at the Front, and feats of gallantry and includes names of officers and enlisted men. Also correspondence book dating from June to July 1916 contains letters written or signed by Lt.-Col. C. G. Pritchard, R.G.A.

## Selected Recent Acquisitions

### Government Records

**RS1006 Department of Intergovernmental Affairs: Administration**. Cabinet Secretariat: Economic Development (committee of Cabinet). Reviews of departmental policy, programs and project analysis of departmental budgets. Emphasis on job creation and job creation strategies, 1970-1981. 3.8 m.

**RS895 Industrial Relations Board Records**. Applications and supporting documents filed under various sections of the Industrial Relations Act, including Right of Access, Certification and Termination of Bargaining Rights, Collective Bargaining, bargaining rights in the construction industry, collective agreements, successor rights, dispute settlement procedures, strikes and lockouts, enforcement, consent to prosecute and miscellaneous application, 1998-1999. .4 m.

**RS240 Records of the Council of Maritime Premiers**. Minutes, meetings, reports, etc., 1971-1973. .2 m.

**RS537 Woodstock Municipal Records**. Fifty large scale framed portraits and photographs of the Mayors of Woodstock, 1870-2010 (P672).

**RS1006 Department of Intergovernmental Affairs: Administration**. Trade and tariff background information, statistics, reports, tables; GATT files (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and NAFTA files (North American Free Trade Agreement), 1994-1997. 1.8m.

**RS626 Department of Transportation: Administration**. Background discussions leading up to the construction of the Saint John Harbour Bridge and thoroughfare. Community input and reaction to the proposal, statistics, reports, submissions, etc., 1965-1966. .2m.

## Additions to Archives' Website

**RS141B7 Index to 1959 Marriages** (4,329 records) and 1960 Marriages (4,466 records)

**RS141C5 Index to Deaths** for 1960 (4,778 records)

**RS24 Legislative Assembly: Sessional Records**, 1786-1833 ■

# The rise of the Riordons

NEITHER JOHN RIORDON, whose poignant 1839 petition for land appears on Page 5, nor his son, John, Jr., pictured right, could have imagined that, a few decades on, there would be a community on the Bay of Chaleur named for the family, or that their descendants would own most of the businesses in that community. But John, Jr.'s son Thomas had both an appetite and an aptitude for business. He is in the next photo, seated right, beside a relative, Bernard Riordon. (The two men standing are unknown.) In 1888, young Thomas, staked by his father, bought a sawmill and gristmill on Pokeshaw River. The mills burned within a year, and Thomas thought of giving up. But, encouraged by his parish priest and others, he rebuilt both the sawmill and the gristmill. By early in the new century, the Riordon family business was a thriving enterprise that also included a large farm, where cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and mink were raised, along with hay and grain to feed the animals—the mid-page photo on the right shows threshing time in the 1920s. The farm was so well run that the federal Department of Agriculture designated part of it an experimental farm (mid-page left), and it regularly attracted visitors, including a group from a local agricultural society in the 1920s. Water to power the mills came from a dam (bottom right) on Pokeshaw River. Millyard workers (center) hauled long lumber, railway ties, shingles, and laths to the railway station at Riordon, which eventually became part of Pokeshaw. Fortune and changing technology ultimately diminished the family business, but Riordon descendants still operate a large dairy farm on the homestead. (The Archives is indebted to Greg Riordon for his donation of a large collection of Riordon family photographs.)



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# L'avènement des Riordon

NI JOHN RIORDON, dont l'émouvante demande de terre, en 1839, est présentée en page 5, ni son fils, aussi dénommé John (à droite sur la photo), n'auraient pu imaginer que quelques décennies plus tard une localité de la baie des Chaleurs porterait le nom de leur famille, ni que leurs descendants y seraient propriétaires de la plupart des entreprises. Mais le fils du deuxième John, Thomas, avait à la fois le goût et le sens des affaires. C'est lui dans la prochaine photo, assis à la gauche, à côté d'un parent, Bernard Riordon. (On ignore l'identité des deux hommes debout.) En 1888, le jeune Thomas, soutenu par son père, se porta acquéreur d'un moulin à scie et d'un moulin à grain sur la rivière Pokeshaw. En moins d'un an, cependant, les deux moulins furent ravagés par les flammes, et Thomas songea à tout laisser tomber. Mais avec l'encouragement du curé et d'autres personnes, il reconstruisit le moulin à scie ainsi que le moulin à grain. Au début du siècle suivant, l'entreprise de la famille Riordon était une affaire florissante qui comprenait aussi une grande ferme où on élevait du bétail, des moutons, des porcs, des volailles et des visons, et où on récoltait du foin et du grain pour les animaux. La photo en milieu de page à droite montre le battage du grain dans les années 1920. La ferme était tellement bien tenue que le ministère fédéral de l'Agriculture en désigna une partie comme ferme expérimentale (au milieu de la page, à gauche); on y accueillait régulièrement des visiteurs, notamment les membres d'un groupe appartenant à la société agricole locale dans les années 1920. Les moulins étaient mus par l'eau provenant d'un barrage sur la rivière Pokeshaw (en bas, à gauche). Les ouvriers de la cour à bois (au centre) transportaient du gros bois d'œuvre, des traverses de chemin de fer, des bardeaux et des lattes jusqu'à la gare ferroviaire de Riordon, localité qui fut plus tard intégrée à Pokeshaw. Les revers de fortune et l'évolution technologique finirent par réduire la taille de l'entreprise familiale, mais les descendants de la famille Riordon exploitent toujours une grande ferme laitière sur la terre ancestrale. (Les Archives sont redevables à M. Greg Riordon d'un don d'une importante collection de photos de la famille Riordon.)



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P676-2



P676-5



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