

Silhouettes

Autumn 2014
Number 39

The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

ACQUISITION: The Unpredictable Factor in Archives

THERE ARE MANY aspects of archival work that make for an interesting job. Among these is acquisition. Four stimulating facets of acquisition are: the source of the material, the process of acquiring, the physical characteristics of an acquisition, and the content/context of the record. Recently an item touching all of these points came to light.

Of late, more potential acquisitions are showing up online, through sites like eBay and Kijiji, or through traditional auction houses. Monitoring all the prospective outlets would be nearly impossible, but the Provincial Archives is very lucky because its many users and supporters are always on the lookout for potential material

pertaining to the history of the province. These sleuths not only peruse local auctions and online sites but point us to acquaintances and people in their families or communities who may have records of archival significance. One such helper, Norman DeMerchant, contacted us about a 1786 petition advertised on eBay. The petition to the Lieutenant Governor Thomas Carleton concerned Sugar Island above Fredericton in York County.

With online sites you never know how your luck will fare. Some items are available through the “buy now” option, while others require a bidding process. With the bidding process, you take a gamble on how high the bidding will go and if it is a desir-

able item you may need to be glued to your computer as the deadline approaches. In this case, luck treated us well. Not only was the Archives successful but it was the only bidder, so the price was very reasonable.

Of course being over 225 years old contributes to the petition’s allure, and the physical features of the petition also captured our interest. It is oversize, approximately 35x50 cm paper folio with three pages of writing, so it offers display possibilities. But what is its content? In the archival context this is the key attribute.

Petitions to the Lieutenant Governor-in-council, today’s equivalent being the cabinet, could be very mundane. In 1786, just two years after the partition of New

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Silhouettes

(ISSN 1201-8333) is published twice yearly. Address inquiries or submissions to the newsletter to

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Brunswick from Nova Scotia, the Legislature dealt with many local issues in minute detail. On the surface, this petition appears to be such a situation. The petition concerns a land dispute, a common enough occurrence in a fledgling colony, but upon closer examination the implications of this dispute could prove interesting to several categories of researchers.

One of the first steps in deciding whether or not to acquire records is to assess the Archives' current holdings to see how the proposed addition would complement or contrast available sources. Reviewing the records already held by the Archives for Governor Carleton, several other petitions dealing with this dispute can be found, but all are truncated. They refer to but do not provide the particulars outlined in the newly acquired petition. Being the first appeal to the Government for redress, this petition contains the fullest account of the confrontation that prompted the dispute.

So what was the dispute and what does it potentially tell us about the early days of New Brunswick as a colony? Prior to the establishment of New Brunswick, the Nova Scotia Government issued land grants to some areas in New Brunswick. The two most concentrated settlements were in Sackville and Maugerville. When the Loyalists and disbanded soldiers arrived following the American Revolution there was some strife over these lands being occupied as they represented some of the choice lots in the colony. Sugar Island, the subject of this 1786 petition, presents a case study of this discord. The island had been granted to Bryan Finucane, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. Finucane died in 1786 and his brother Andrew arrived in New Brunswick to take up the property or at least to take advantage of its extensive stand of trees. When Andrew Finucane arrived he was run off the property by a band of locals.

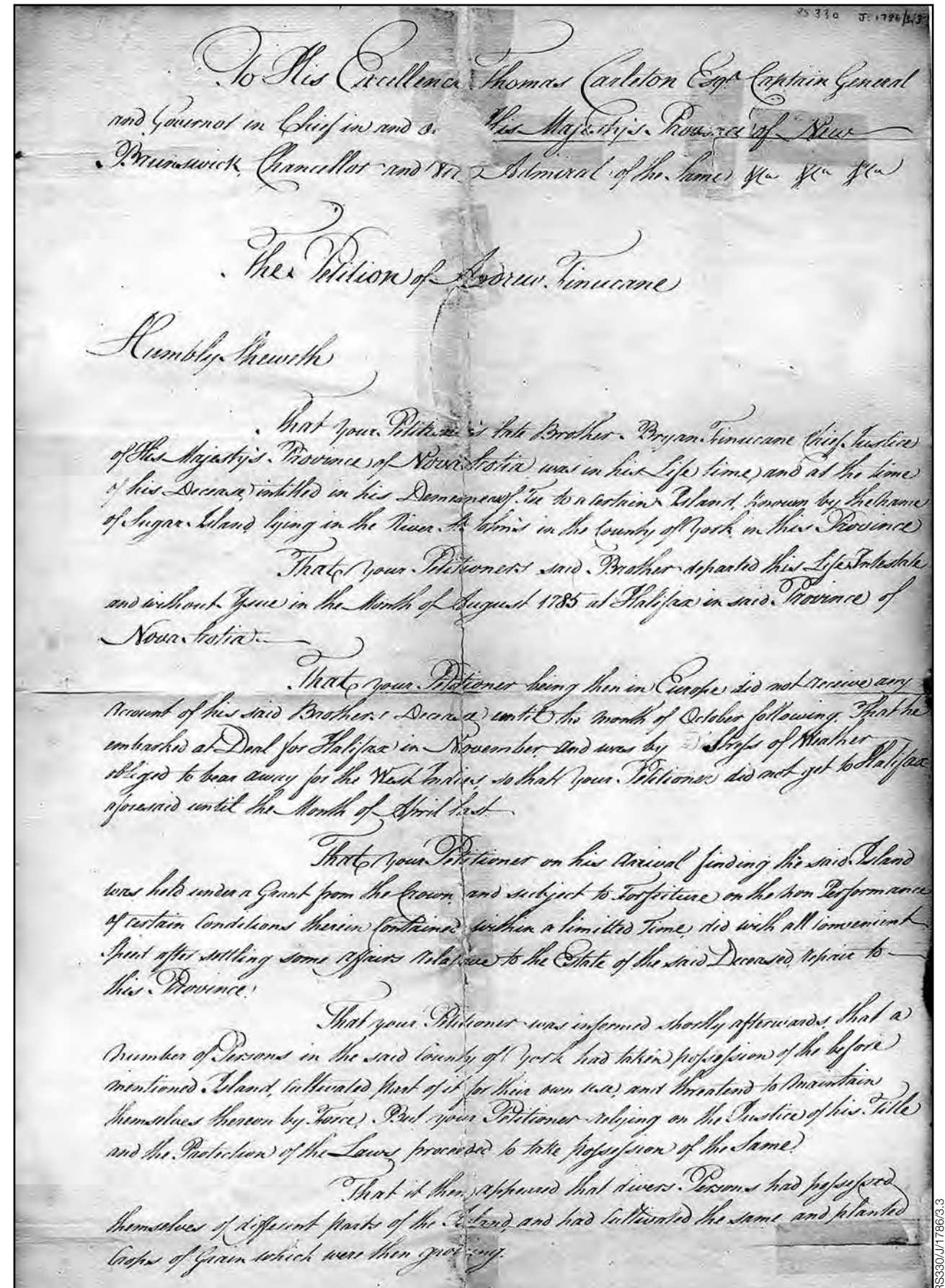
In Andrew Finucane's petition to Lieutenant Governor Carleton he provides

his account of the "mob" that ran him off and names the leaders of the group. The surnames of the "riot" leaders were Dumond, Syphers, Likings, Everett, Marygold, Freland, and Parks, all formerly of the New Jersey Volunteers. This document provides insight into the dynamic among the various groups of early European settlers in New Brunswick vying for the prime settlement lands. It also would be prized by genealogists connected to either the Finucane family or the descendants of the men who challenged him for Sugar Island.

One final question remains. Why wasn't this record already part of the Lieutenant Governor Thomas Carleton's records? Herein lies the story of so many Government records prior to the founding of the Provincial Archives in 1967. For the first 180 years of the province records of the Government resided in attics and basements of buildings used for Government activities in Fredericton and elsewhere in the province under limited care and control. Over time many were destroyed by fire and flood, others thrown out to free up space, and many others walked away, either because they tweaked people's interest or people recognized the jeopardy of the situation and wanted to save the records from the threats at the time. Today, and over the years the Archives has been in operation, some of these records find their way home. The petition of 1786 over the dispute for Sugar Island is just one such gem filling in another piece of the puzzle that is this province's history.

It is however, a bit more meaningful. Archives and the history of New Brunswick are often characterized as uninteresting, boring, or worse yet, not germane to life today. The student refrain, "nothing interesting ever happened here," comes to mind. The reality couldn't be farther from such a depiction. History becomes more engaging once you learn your ancestor participated in a riot, and that the issues at stake still resonate in the 21st century. ■

FRED FARRELL



MS30/1786/3

Archival Coincidences

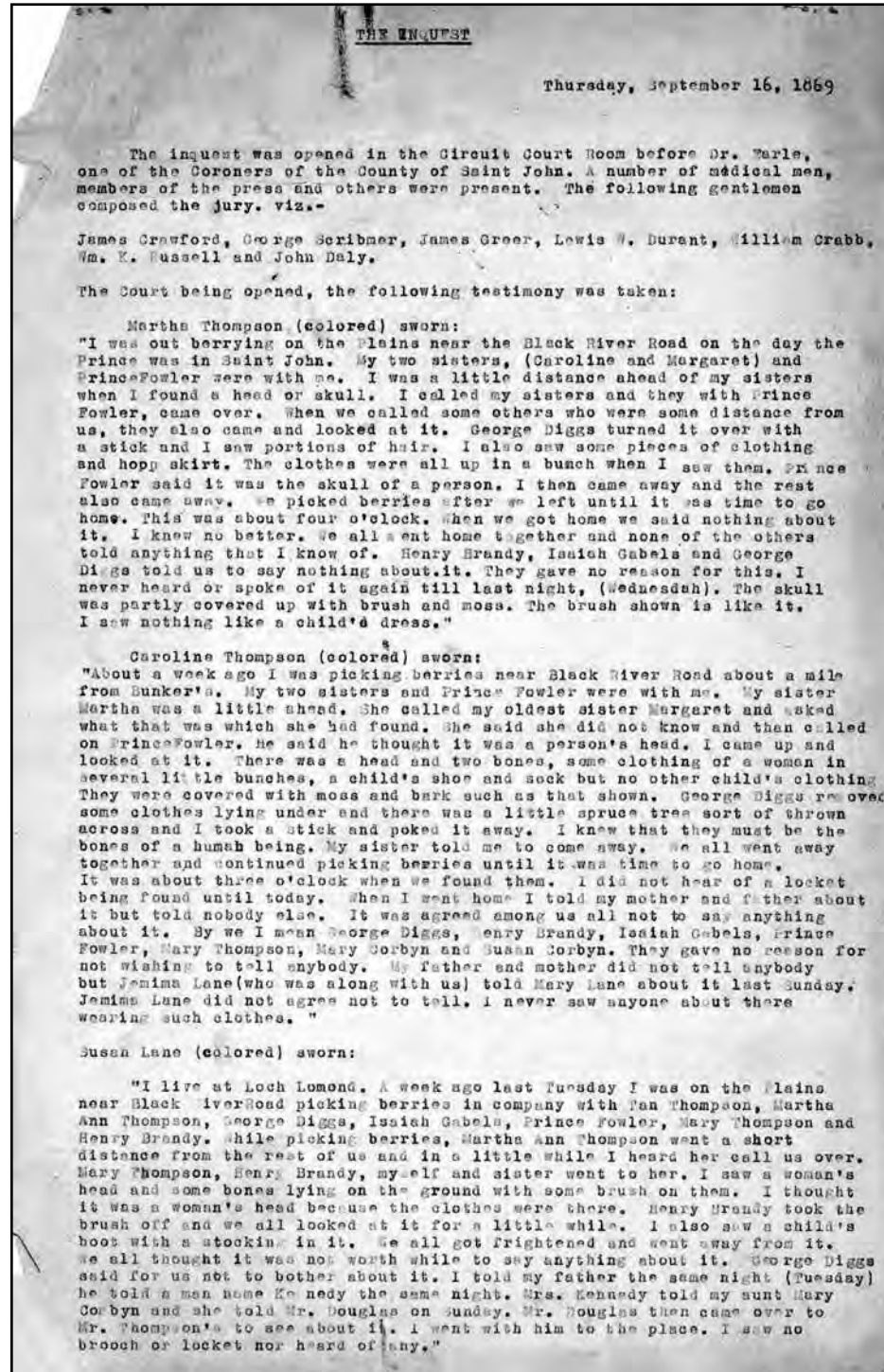
ARCHIVAL COINCIDENCES add an additional element of excitement to the work of an archivist. I could wax poetic about synchronicity, fate, and destiny but for the purposes of this article I will focus on two recent examples of how routine turned remarkable by mere chance.

In the summer of 2013 I responded to a request from a researcher who was searching for a transcript of a coroner's inquest for a double murder that occurred in 1869. Knowing that verbatim transcripts were not always created, when a search failed to produce a transcript in our holdings I suggested she contact Library and Archives Canada, where court documents involving capital punishment are held. I assumed that if no transcript were found there it was probable that none existed and advised the researcher that newspapers at the time did report the case in great detail and the information she sought could likely be found in that format.

At about the same time that this exchange took place a revision was made to a records retention schedule for Provincial Court records. The revision reduced the waiting period for these records to come to the Archives from 75 years to 25. This meant that government records archivists were suddenly faced with the somewhat daunting job of processing a significant number of boxes. Many of these files were of little long-term value, as the information was either recorded elsewhere or the infractions were repetitive and minor. Several weeks into this process, when we were all becoming a bit weary of processing court records, my colleague opened a box that was visibly different than the hundreds opened before it. The files were dingier and the records older; there were crumbled rubber bands at the bottom of the container. Upon closer inspection we determined "Judge Brown's files" were from the 1930s and 1940s and had been

sent to the PANB records centre under the incorrect retention schedule many years previously. Archival instinct kicked in and we started perusing each file. They yielded

some interesting finds, including a file titled "Coroner's Inquest Into the Death of Sarah Margaret Vail (John Monroe Case)." It was not the original – obviously a later



First page of the transcript of the Vail/Munroe murder case

transcription, but there it was – the 1869 double murder inquest.

What if I had not come to work that day? What if I had stepped out of the room when the box was opened? What if a different archivist, one who was not involved with appraisal on government records had been the one to assist that researcher and therefore didn't know that it was of immediate interest? Archival coincidence!

The second example struck a personal chord. As a government records archivist (at the time), I did not normally meet with potential private sector donors. However, when a gentleman bearing a large padded envelope arrived one afternoon, it happened by chance that all private sector staff were in meetings or out of the building. I volunteered to chat with him, and soon discovered that we were from the same neck of the woods (Carleton County) and that I was somewhat familiar with his family history because of work I had done with the Carleton County Historical Society years previous. We looked over the materials he brought, I gave him some acid free envelopes, and I told him a private sector records archivist would be in touch shortly. I didn't give too much thought to the donation after that until a few weeks later when Fred Farrell stopped me as I was walking by his office and handed me a photo of a young girl about 10 years age. "Remind you of anyone?" he asked. I took the photo and my first thought was, "Where did Fred find a photo of my daughter?" My second thought was, "When did she have this photo taken?" Then I thought, "Where did she find those old clothes?" An illogical thought pattern, given that the photograph in my hand was quite obviously about 115 years old.

It turned out that the photo was part of the donation from the gentleman from Carleton County. As Fred was putting the photographs away in envelopes this photo had slid onto his desk and he noticed the resemblance to my daughter immediately. The girl is not identified, and a follow-up

email to the donor did not yield any additional information except that because it was not labelled, it was likely not of a member of his family. I decided to trace my



Shirley Andow

own family tree to see if I could find a clue.

To make a long story short, 6 months later I am not any closer to determining who the young lady in the photograph is, but I cannot help but believe that she is a relative. There is the remotest chance that she could be Glenna May Birmingham, born August 7, 1887 and who would on March 14, 1916 give birth to my paternal grandmother, Irma Louise Clark. I do not have access to any photographs of my grandmother's family so I cannot make a comparison to test my hunch. Archival coincidence! (And an interesting story for my daughter to tell.)

Both examples are neat illustrations of chance, but they also make me reflect on the nature of archival work. Being able to connect a researcher with a file that we both thought did not exist reminded me how interconnected the work performed by different sections of the Archives is, while the photograph reminded me that while we assist all types of researchers and support all sorts of government and academic work, we also exist to provide the public with the pleasure and joy of discovery.

Archivists sometimes slip into a daily rhythm of processing new material and pointing people who are seeking information in the right direction. Typically we embrace these tasks with gusto and complete the work to the best of our ability and with intense focus. Because we enjoy what we do it can take the jolt of an 'archival coincidence' for us to pause and reflect upon why we do what we do, why we do it the way we do, and how the decisions we make during that daily rhythm will affect future researchers. Coincidences are entertaining, but they can also give us ideas for improving our work. That is why I like it when they occur. ■

JOANNA AITON KERR

Note: PANB acquired 11 sheets of architectural drawings by John A. Monroe in 1998 (MC2721).

The Show Must Go On: The A. G. Barnes Circus Train Wreck

THE LATE JIM O'NEILL was a well-known and respected Fredericton citizen, lover of circuses, and dedicated Firefighter. In more recent years Mr. O'Neill volunteered at the Archives putting his extensive knowledge of Fredericton history to use identifying vintage photographs of the city. In doing so, Mr. O'Neill's passion for history, in particular that of circuses, quickly became apparent.

Mr. O'Neill's passion for circuses was matched only by that of Fred Phillips, former PANB photograph archivist. The two became great friends and both of their collections, housed here at PANB, are tremendous sources for researchers interested in entertainments of the mid twentieth century. These holdings complement a scattering of similar materials throughout various other collections at the Archives and, all told, these materials highlight the important roles circuses, performers, and various shows played in towns and cities across North America as they brought entertainment and frivolity to the doorstep of

those who did not have world travel within their scope and purview. The Archives accrues new material through a variety of means and each new addition adds another dimension to material already stored in our repository, slowly aiding in the completion of the puzzle of our varied history and highlighting that history from different angles. Such is the case with Mr. O'Neill's collection, as it ties in well with the work of Mr. Phillips and others, including David Folster, on travelling circuses in New Brunswick.

Railway circuses were an institution across North America by the 1920s and 30s, travelling throughout spring, summer and fall through a network of towns and cities, expected with anticipation each year. Fred Phillips recalls that circuses, although perhaps less organized and not travelling by rail, were visiting the province as early as the 1830s¹. In 1844 Rockwell and Stone's Circus itinerary saw them visit Oromocto, Fredericton, Prince William, Eel River and Woodstock in succession

from September 9th to 14th. A few attempts at railway circuses were made in the 1850s but it wasn't until a standard track gauge was struck that it became easier for railway circuses to establish themselves. John H. Murray's circus visited the province in the 1870s with its final season itinerary in 1878 showing at Fredericton, Florenceville, Grand Galls, Fort Fairfield, Woodstock and Houlton from July 29th to August 3rd. Railway circuses finally took off under the development of Dan Costello and W.C. Coup under the name of P.T. Barnum. The original Barnum circus came to New Brunswick in 1876 and 1879². At the same time the Cooper and Bailey Show was showing in Asia and South America, returning to New York in 1879 and then using electric lighting as a public attraction. A rivalry broke out between the two circuses, but by 1880 they merged to form Barnum and Bailey. This circus visited New Brunswick in 1885 and from there on a succession of circuses made their way through the province³.

Fred Phillips paints a picture of how the arrival of such circuses was anticipated and what a railway circus unloading entailed:

...you went down to the railroad station. Other kids were there already, and some grown-ups. The air was full of dawn-mist – and rumors. Then finally you heard it – the long drawn wail of a locomotive – and you were sure it didn't sound like any other locomotive you'd ever heard.

Once in the railroad yards the train was quickly broken up, the long lines of flats and stocks and Pullmans spotted on sidings for loading. Razor-backs set the "runs" in place, a pull away team was unloaded from one of the stock cars and the great red-and-gold-wagons began to

rumble down to the street level.

In quick succession came the boiler wagon, the other vehicles of the commissary department, the stake-and-chain wagon, the big top poles, the canvas wagons, the jacks-and-stringers, the seat wagons, the property wagons. Later came cages with tarpaulins close-hauled. Muffled roars from deep within told you that their jungle majesties were not amused. Then with patient plodding footfall, freighted with the wisdom of the ages, came nature's ponderous philosophers – the elephants.⁴

⁴ Phillips, Fred. "The Circus Came to Town", March 22, 1961, p. 83

One quickly gains a sense from this description of how young and old alike awaited the arrival of the circus by train with great anticipation, so one can only imagine with what interest the public would regard a circus wreck.

A recent addition to the Jim O'Neill collection highlights the dangers of circus rail travel, and brings to mind more recent CNR disasters, such as Lac Megantic or New Brunswick's Wapske derailment. Railway accidents, as recent memory confirms, can often be of public interest

due to the extensive damage caused, but this particular accident was of interest to many for very different reasons, although its consequences remained tragic for a few. This was the A. G. Barnes Circus wreck in Canaan Station, one of the worst train wrecks in the history of the CNR in the Atlantic Region up to that point.

On July 20th, 1930 at 6:55am the A. G. Barnes Circus Train consisting of twenty nine cars, enroute from Newcastle to Charlottetown, derailed at Canaan Sta-

The Daily Times (later the Moncton Transcript) morning edition headline for the 21st of July, 1930



The scene of the train wreck at Canaan Station, July 20, 1930.



James O'Neill (left), owner-builder-manager of O'Neill Bros. Model Circus and Fred Phillips (right) with the model circus at the National Exhibition Center in Fredericton, New Brunswick, October 1977.

¹ Phillips, Fred. "The Circus Came to Town", March 22, 1961, p. 86.

² *ibid.*, p. 83.

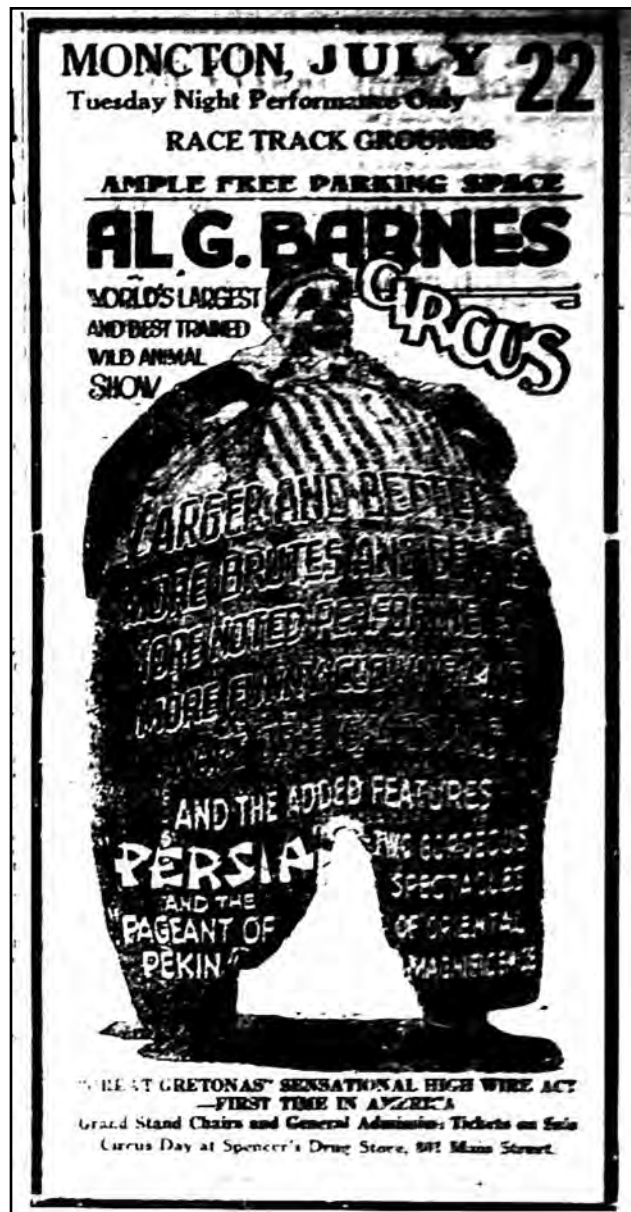
³ *ibid.*, p. 88.

tion due to a truck arch bar falling beneath a wheel. An inquest on July 22nd found the accident to be purely accidental, attaching no blame to anyone. Nine rear cars were wrecked and the material damage to the train and tracks was extensive, but much worse by far was the human toll. Three men died instantly, including James Arthur Stephens of Carleton Plateau, Saint John, and a fourth died later, while seventeen were injured. Two of the dead, Albert Johnson of Los Angeles, California and L.D. MacFarlane of Toronto, Ontario, would be buried in Elmwood cemetery while Stephens would be returned to Saint John for internment. A memorial service was held for the two former men each time the circus was in town in subsequent years.

The cars affected consisted of five flat cars which carried the empty animal cages and wagons but also carried the three men killed. A work car was attached to the rear of these and those inside were injured. Many extraneous items were also damaged including the lighting, trapeze equipment and big top tent, not to mention the railway line itself, which require 220 yards of roadbed to be re-laid.

The response to the disaster was swift. A relief train replete with doctors and nurses was sent to assist at the scene and the injured and deceased were returned to Moncton on this train. Despite the carnage and damage the rail line was cleared and repaired, returning the line to full use by 4:00pm and only causing relatively brief delays for a few scheduled trains. The response of interested bystanders was also extensive. Automobile and foot traffic overwhelmed Canaan as curious people travelled from surrounding areas to see the incident in person.

The effort to get everything back in



An advertisement for the last minute Al. G. Barnes Circus show in Moncton two days after the train wreck. *The Daily Times*, July 22, 1930.

order progressed quickly. The cars which could travel on to Moncton did so and the wreckage soon joined them at the CNR yard in that city. The work of rebuilding the circus infrastructure was taken on by CNR workmen and circus staff in what later became the CN Terminal Building parking lot. Meanwhile preparations were made to put on a show at the racetrack in Moncton, later CFB #5 Moncton.

In the spirit of true showmanship the performers gave a show that exceeded expectations. The Moncton Transcript

reported that “From the nature of the programme and the manner in which it was run off, one never would suspect that the organization had gone through such a demoralizing mishap...the organization seemed to be letter-perfect and the performers enacted their parts with a smoothness that belied the costly catastrophe of Sunday morning.”⁵ By the end of the week the necessary repairs were made and the Al. G. Barnes Circus was back on track – literally. The circus made its way to Windsor, Nova Scotia for the next performance.

However in the following two decades Barnes circus and others would experience a decline. By the 1950s railway circuses were failing due to rising railway costs and the growing lack of low wage labour. The days of anticipating the arrival of the circus, the unloading of the equipment and animals and the circus parade, were gone. Yet, the memory of these entertainments lived on with many who grew up during their heyday and their records live on here at PANB.

Photographs of circuses unloading or parading exist in many personal fonds, reflecting the response circuses engendered and how these occasions were attended by people of various ages and circumstances. Then

there are those collections, such as Jim O'Neill's, which focus on a life time's worth of circus centered material, revealing the lasting legacy and deep impact circuses have had in the lives of others. In the end the combined material points to a yesterday in which entertainment and oddities were as sought after as they are today – rail travel may have changed but human nature never will. ■

JULIA THOMPSON

⁵ Moncton Transcript, July 23, 1930

Intrigues, Deaths, and Scandals: The Circus in New Brunswick Newspapers

DANIEL F. JOHNSON'S Newspaper Vital Statistics (archives.gnb.ca/search/newspapervitalstats) contains a wealth of information which can be used beyond simply discovering births, marriages, and deaths for genealogical purposes. A simple full text search can be used

to discover information on many topics. These searches tend to bring up the most interesting and diverse results and when looking for information on circuses and other performances some of the following tidbits were discovered. It quickly becomes apparent that safety, or the lack thereof, was

a big issue (including railway accidents), that the circus was synonymous with over imbibing with some, and that the allure of the circus was simply too much for others. How will you go about using this incredible resource to bolster your research? The possibilities are endless.

August 21, 1847 - New Brunswick Courier - Saint John: An inquest was held the same afternoon before the same Justices, on view of the body of a Thomas Dunn, age 4 who was killed at noon same day by the wheel of a loaded cart passing over his body in Prince William Street (St. John). The child was in the crowd following the Circus Band and that the cartman [sic] was driving at a moderate walk.

October 6, 1870 - The Daily Telegraph - Saint John: The accident on the Erie Railway, which is said to have resulted in the death of William Whiteneck of (St. John) city is thus reported in the Boston papers.: Middleton, N.Y., Sept. 28 - A train with Lent's Circus left this place for Patterson last night, but was detained at Turner's by a heated journal. It was run into by the morning express and director Whiteneck of the circus killed and the engineer and fireman injured. (see original) - Mr. Whiteneck's friends will be pleased to learn that he escaped with his life. His brother received a letter from him yesterday which states that he was seriously injured and may be permanently crippled.

July 28, 1876 - Daily News - Saint John: Fredericton, July 27 - A man named John Flanagan who was in the city during the day and eve. yesterday, imbibed a little too much 'tanglefoot' and on his way home to Flanagan Settlement, which is on the line of Fredericton Railway, he was killed by the first train going out, which conveyed a part of the 'Great Barnum Circus' to your city.

July 11, 1877 - Saint Croix Courier - St. Stephen: A man named Wm H. Noble imbibed too freely on the circus grounds at Calais (Maine) on the 4th and when returning home lay down on the railway tracks near a curve and not being discovered in time to stop the train was run over and had both his legs severed from his body. The poor unfortunate died on Friday last.

August 23, 1884 - The Fredericton Evening Capital - Fredericton: Florence McLeod, age 17, who resided with her grandfather at Springfield, Lot 67, P.E.I., caught the circus fever and decamped with Japanese Tommy. Her mother resides at St. Stephen (Charlotte Co.) - 'Summerside Journal'

May 27, 1886 - The Daily Sun - Saint John: The death of Thomas M. Reed occurred at his residence St. James St., Saint John at an early hour last eve., in his 59th year. His father was Capt. Thomas Reed who

for many years sailed from this port and was in command of steamer "Royal Tar" that burned on her last trip to Portland, Me. with a circus troupe on board. Capt. Reed was one of the pioneers in the bay service. He held the position of harbor master here for many years. His son, the late Thomas M. Reed, was apprenticed when a boy to Dr. Sharp who kept a drug store at the head of North Wharf. Between 1870 and 1880, Mr. Reed was returned three times as Mayor of Saint John. Afterwards he was appointed County Treasurer. He was also a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Reed's mother perished in the Great Fire (June 20th, 1877) and her two sisters - Misses Clark.

August 10, 1889 - The Fredericton Evening Capital - Fredericton: Intelligence has been received here through Police Magistrate Marsh of the death of John B. McGill of Fredericton city at Steator, Illinois. on 30th July. He was employed at the time in Forepaugh's circus taking care of the animals and it was while unloading the elephants that he met with the accident which caused his death. When discovered he was lying under the cars insensible, but on being taken to the hospital he revived sufficiently long to ask for a drink of water and to tell his name and where he belonged. He was a young man about 22 years of age and was a son of Mrs. Rachael McGill who kept a boarding house on Regent street for some time. The sad news was communicated to his brother and mother by the Police Magistrate.

July 2, 1890 - The Daily Sun - Saint John: The circus train from Windsor, N.S. early Friday morn. ran over and killed a farmer, married, named Edward O'Brien of Three Mile Plains. O'Brien was returning home from Windsor, it is supposed, on the track when he was overtaken and run down.

July 19, 1892 - The Times - Moncton: Concord, N.Y., July 18 - Joseph Regley, an employee in Harper's circus, injured by falling from a wagon between Penacook and Tilton on night of June 30, died at the city hospital today. He belongs to New Brunswick and is about 19 years old.

August 21, 1894 - The Gleaner - Fredericton: Samuel Freeze of Doaktown, a manufacturer of sashes, doors and school desks, etc., was the victim of one or two of the fakirs who follow Cook and Whitby's circus (see original for more). ■

JULIA THOMPSON

A Tea Box and a Suitcase: Eddy Family Donations, 2014

SOME RESEARCHERS might be familiar with a collection at the Provincial Archives called MC651 Robert Eddy fonds: [1826-1838]. It contained photocopies of 8 letters received in Bathurst, NB by Robert Eddy, a recent immigrant from Bandon, Ireland. In May 2014, Isabel Eddy, original donor of the copies, donated the original letters and other Eddy records to the Archives. These records arrived in an old metal “tea box” which carries an advertisement for Harry W. de Forest, Direct Importer & Tea Blender, Saint John, NB, [1900] on the bottom.

The other records, legal or land in nature, give information on members of the Eddy family of 4 different generations. The tea box was found at the Eddy family farm, Clearwater, in East Bathurst, probably saved by Laura Eddy Duplisea, a teacher who resided there for most of her 93 years, except 1914-1925, when she married and lived in Petersville, Queens County.

In September 2014, the Eddy family made another donation to the Archives, this time records which document the World War II experiences of two brothers, Robert Cheyne Eddy (1920-1986) and his older brother, Donald Norval Eddy (1918-1945). Included are their letters and related correspondence, and the war diaries of the 18th Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers, 1941-1945. Finally, there are 5 books: four are based on Robert C. Eddy’s letters and wartime experiences and the fifth is based on Donald Eddy’s – all compiled and edited by Isabel K. Eddy, widow of Robert Eddy. In total, there are approximately 600 letters, close to 500 written by Robert C. Eddy, 87 by Donald Eddy, and letters(8) which Grace Eddy, mother of the soldiers, wrote to Isabel Race and the 4 letters she received from Donald’s girlfriend, Frida van der Kaa, after his death.



The non-descript tea box and suitcase in which various Eddy family records arrived at PANB. The tea box is now in the possession of Elizabeth (Eddy) Branch, Bathurst.



When Grace Eddy died in 1974, the wartime letters which she had received from her sons, Donald and Robert, were found preserved in the family safe. Fortunately, Isabel Race Eddy also had saved the letters which she received, placing them in a suitcase in a closet for safekeeping for years. Robert sorted all the letters, placing the ones he had written to Isabel in envelopes, annotating them and providing dates. In the 1990s, Isabel Race Eddy transcribed, edited and printed the letters for her family, eventually producing five volumes, the latest in 2010.

These letters and documents provide insights into the Eddy family’s history and

the events they lived through, but another element about these records is also important. Several generations appreciated the importance of these records and saw fit to preserve them. Secondly, it was concluded that to ensure their long term preservation and availability to a wider audience, placing them in the Provincial Archives would be the best option. Recognizing the importance of documentary heritage and taking steps to place it in a suitable institution are the catalysts that will make our province’s history available to future generations. ■

TWILA BUTTIMER

Diary of Unidentified Female in MC3237 James (Jim) O’Neill fonds

THIS DIARY is part of MC3237 Jim O’Neill fonds. The diary writer is not identified. It is clearly a female and may be Jim O’Neill’s mother, Susan Gertrude Barry (called Gertrude), born 25 December 1899 to Susan Farrell and James E. Barry. The 1911 Census shows Gertrude Barry living with her mother in Fredericton; her father having died in 1906. From time to time, the diary mentions her grandmother, [Mrs. James Farrell -nee Mary McGowan] but there is no reference to her mother. James Farrell of King Street, Fredericton died 18 April 1910 – so perhaps Gertrude moved in with her widowed grandmother, sometime after the census was taken. At the back of the diary accounts for 1911-1912 show, “Nan Board \$2.00” or just “Board \$2.00” each week.

The diarist works at Hall’s Bookstore, Fredericton, 30 Jan – 30 June; sews in evening for herself & others; often bathes her grandmother. Some interesting events mentioned: provincial by-election, York County, 30 March; coronation of King George V, 22 June; Cathedral struck by lightning [sic] & badly damaged; Provincial Normal School entrance dance, 4 July; week of 3 July-9 July, hot: 90sF; stays in Woodstock, 19 July-25 August.

January 30 – August 31, 1911

30 JAN MONDAY. Went to work, Hall’s Book Store [Fredericton]. Quite tired first day, everything quite natural. Think I may like it. Home 6pm. Bed 11.30. [Editor: first entry]

7 JAN SUNDAY. Fine & Cold. Up 8, went to Mass, 8.30. Home, breakfast. Bath Gram. Clean own room. Jack, Tom, Jean in. Walk Salamanca, back 6, supper. Church, home. Jean & Tom in, left 10, Jack left 10.30

8 JAN Fine & cold. Got up, work shop all day. Home started to make blue silk waist, sewed 10.30, drink, bed 11.30

13 FEB Fine & cold. Got up at 7.30. Work all day. Home [], Jack down after supper. Busy day, Valentine’s. Jack left. 10.30 upstairs. Bed 11.30

18 FEB SATURDAY. Work usual. Evening, Harold Logan in, treated Jean & I to lemon soda. Met Tom & Jack. Home 10.30, bath 11, bed 12.30

26 FEB SUNDAY. Fine & cold. Went 10.30 mass. Afternoon, Tom, Jean, Jack & I walk up [to] Sharkeys Camp. Slid down Merriland [New Maryland] Hill. Supper, washed hair. Jack left 10.30, bed 11.45

2 MAR THURSDAY. Fine & warm. Work as usual. House [of] Assembly opened. Glorious day. Big crowd in town...

17 MAR FRIDAY. St. Patrick’s day, cold & rainy. Got up 6.30, went to 7 Mass. Home, breakfast, work. Evening, went [to] Opera House with Jean & Tom, see The Gallor, put on by W. Walsh. Got home 10.45, bed 11.30

20 MAR MONDAY. Snow & fine. Work usual, home. Evening sewed on grey skirt...

26 MAR SUNDAY, up at 8am – went 10.30 Mass. ... Went walk with Tom & Jean over bridge, met train. Home 5, supper.

29 MARCH Exciting political meeting.
30 MARCH Election. Conservative Morehouse won [editor: Dr Oscar Morehouse was elected as MLA for York County in a by-election]

3 APRIL SUNDAY, cold & windy. Went 8.30 mass, home, swept & dusted all day, own room... Evening, went Church. Met Jean & Tom, home 8pm. 8.15 Pat arrived. Sat in parlour 9. All out to kitchen, pigs feet 9.45...

20 APRIL THURSDAY. Work usual. Out. Mrs. K. is here, suit fitted...

21 APRIL FRIDAY, dark cold. Work all day as usual. Evening went out. Mrs. Kierstead

[was outfitted] in jeans...

23 APRIL SUNDAY. Cold & dark. Went 10.30 Mass, Nan in bed all day. Cooked afternoon’s supper. Dr. came. Church. Jack home talked., 10.30 left. Nan no better.

24 APRIL Work usual all day. Nan some better...

13 MAY SATURDAY, Fine & cool. Work all day & evening, 10.10. Old man in for me to write a letter for him, treated peppermints. Home 10.15. Bed 10.50, tired.

4 JUNE SATURDAY, warm, King’s birthday. Work all day. Left shop 4pm, home. Al & J. & I [at] station to see Gram & Liz away to W’stock [Woodstock]...

5 JUNE SUNDAY, warm & rain. Went 8.30 Mass. Jean & Tom in, phoned Liz, Gram fairly well... Jack, Tom, Jean & I drive up other side of river, crossed Lunt’s Ferry down Estey. Supper, home 9.30.

16 JUNE FRIDAY, rain. Work all day. Evening sewed blue hat. Upstairs 10.30, read 11.30 bed 12

20 JUNE TUESDAY, worked all day. Very busy putting in Coronation window. Looks very well.

21 JUNE WEDNESDAY, rain. Work all day, shop scrubbed, looks very nice. Home, supper. Jean is down [to] Father Carney Neville. Walk up street, met Tom, home 10.

22 JUNE THURSDAY, Coronation King George V. Went to Mass, Mr. Neville. Met Jean up street. Parade kids home. Had snaps of kids. Dinner, sewed afternoon. 9.30 went down band concert. Jean & Tom home 10.30. Bed 11.30

30 JUNE FRIDAY, warm. Worked all day, evening till 10.10pm. Home bed 11. Finished work at shop today 1911.

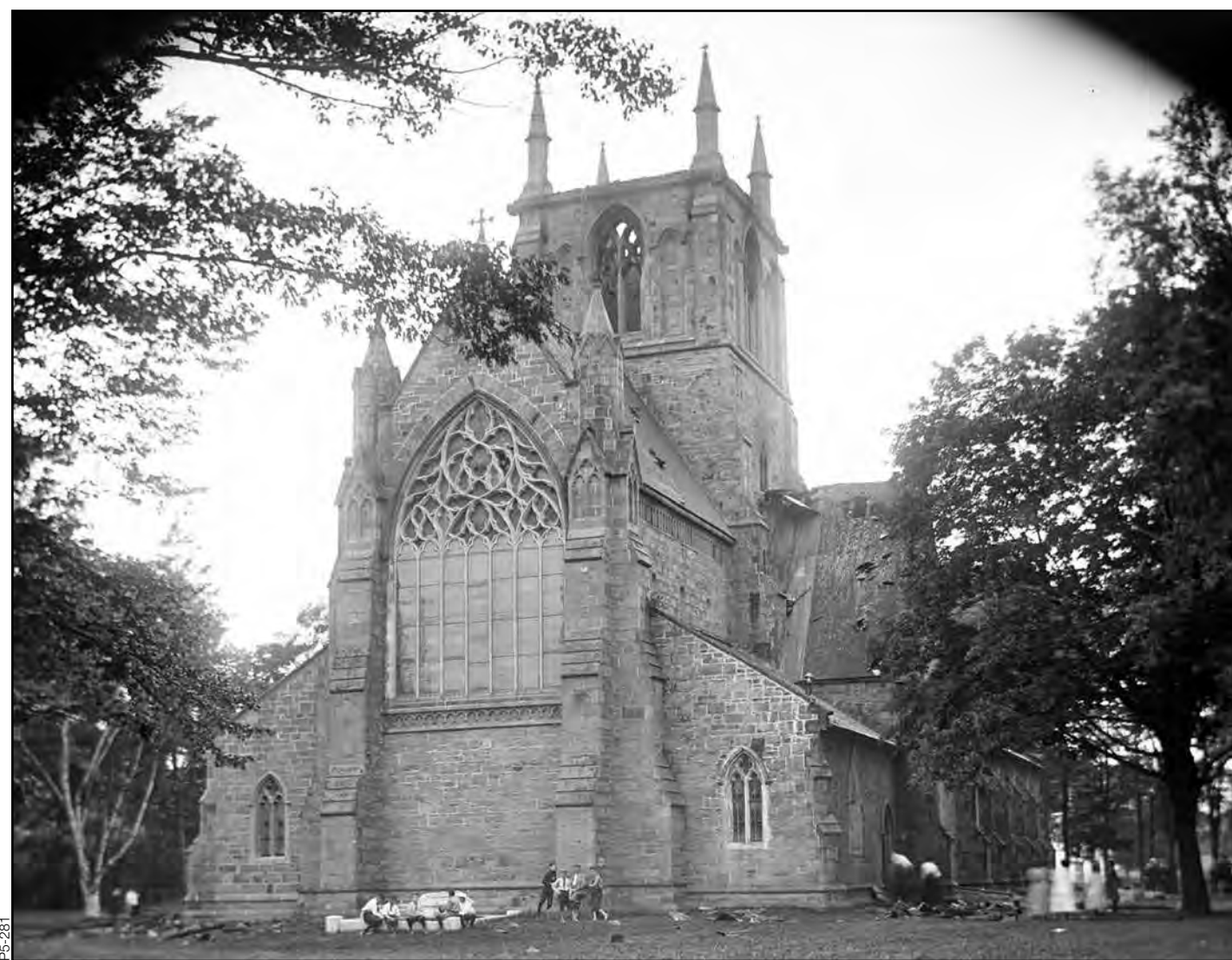
1 JULY Hot. Got up 8am. Breakfast, washed dishes, made cake no good. Took bath. Jean down, worked on waist. Supper. Jack in 9pm, walk over bridge, home. Carriage upset in front of dairy. Talk 11.30, bed 12.15.

3 JULY MONDAY, hot. Worked around home, cut skirt & fixed it. Went up street, home dinner, sewed. Evening, went to bed. 11.30 downstairs, terrific thunder-storm... struck Cathedral spire, burned till 12.30 Tuesday. Looked bad & pretty sight.
4 JULY Hot 98, went to work 8.30 shop... Students P.N.S. [Provincial Normal School] entrance dance...
7 JULY FRIDAY, hot. Went 7 Mass. Home... sewed nearly all day up [till] 3pm Bank H.B. & S. Co. note cashed 415.00. Met Jean up Sample Rooms; order gold bag and hat-pins. Home supper, church... Slept upstairs – first [time] this week.
8 JULY Little cooler, 95 ...

9 JULY SUNDAY, quite warm & muggy. Went 10.30 Mass. Jean, Tom & I down Cathedral. ... Met Joe Tingley & Daly girls; went motor boat up river. Home, very warm.
18 JULY TUESDAY, warm rain.... Packed trunk, bath...
19 JULY WEDNESDAY, fine warm. ... Left for Wstock [Woodstock] 9.30, ar. 12.30
31 JULY MONDAY, hot, showery... 4.30 met Maryann [Mayme], went Houlton, train. Good time, train 40 minutes late. Mack met us, drove home.
6 AUG Hot, went 8.30 Mass, home with Gert
10 AUG THURSDAY. Home all day. Sewed [for] Miss Gibson. Aunt Maggie up,

dressed dear Gram, supper home. Evening went telephone office till 9.30
11 AUG FRIDAY, work usual morning. Maryann [Mayme] up in afternoon, cut & made dress for her. Evening Aunt Maggie & M.J. up, went down station....
13 AUG [last daily entry]
25 AUG FRIDAY. Came home from Woodstock.
27 AUG SUNDAY. Went 8.30 Mass. Jack down afternoon, also Jean & Tom. Supper, Jean went home. Jack & I had talk, very lonely & sad.
31 AUG Home all day. Afternoon up street, met Jean & Jen Woods. Home, cut Alskirt ■

TWILA BUTTIMER



Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton, following the fire which destroyed the steeple, 1911.

New and Updated Finding Aids

Government Records

RS1 Published Journals Of The Proceedings Of The Legislative Assembly Of New Brunswick. Addition of published copies of the journals for the years 1879, 1880, 1903, 1908 and 1920.
RS58 Records Of The Court Of Divorce. 24 volumes of divorce judgments, 1796-1998.
RS66 Kings County Probate Court Records. 402 records added (RS66A files) 1980-1984.
RS71 Saint John County Probate Court Records. 1,014 records added to RS71A, 1980-1984.
RS735 Department of Education: Printed Records. Education, curriculum and statistics printed reports, 1844-2005.

Selected Recent Acquisitions

Government Records

RS15 Provincial Secretary: Motor Vehicle Administration Records. Bound volume - donated. Used by the Secretary of the Department of Public Works who was responsible for keeping records registering motor vehicles, issuing licenses to operators, and collecting fees, 1916-1917. (.3m)
RS58 Records Of The Court Of Divorce. 24 volumes of divorce judgments, 1958-1973. (.9m) Divorce files, 1998. (14.4m)
RS112 Mineral Resources Branch Records. Mining Company Correspondence, Leases, etc., 1890-1980. (2.4m)
RS116 Records of the Chief Superintendent of Education. Includes minutes of several boards, audit reports, financial statements, and salary schedules for teachers, 1944-1966. (.6m)
RS117 Teachers College Records. Yearbook "Tutoris", 1952. (.07m)
RS144 Vital Statistics: A5 Annual Returns of Births, 1919. (.6m). **A1b Late Registrations of Births, 1919** (.4m). **B4 Annual Returns of Marriages, 1964.** (.9)
RS144 Board of Management: Minutes. Meetings/Minutes, Decision Memos; Departmental Files and Submissions, 1977-1984. (7.2m)
RS268 Provincial Buildings Branch Records. Property case files, 1951-2009. (8.4m)
RS362 Records of Gilbert White Ganong, Lieutenant Governor. Guest Book, 1917.
RS389 New Brunswick Library Services Records. New Brunswick Public Libraries Summer Reading Club Program, 1984-1998. (.3m)
RS405 Arts Branch. Arts Grants, 2005-2007. (.6m). CD of Festival Acadien de Caraquet - Ode à l'Acadie (contact Digital Preservation Unit).

RS418 Moncton Municipal Records. Survey Field Books/Foreman Field Books - documenting the slope/grades of roads, locations of culverts and catch basins, water and sewer lines, 1888-1997. (5.7m)
RS419 Fredericton Municipal Records. Various items, 1905-1985, including: City of Fredericton tourist brochures, 1970s; amalgamation of Devon, Marysville, etc., with Fredericton, 1973; history of Marysville and city buildings. (.2m)
RS619 Department of Tourism: Promotions and Marketing Branch Records. Postcards, 1994-2005 (contact Photographs Unit [P225]).
RS637 Records of the Surveyor General. Surveyors' note books. Several identified as those of Robert Douglas of Bouctouche, 1847-1928. (.3m)
RS661 Teachers Certification Records, 1951. (.3m)
RS741 Records of the Office of Protocol. Order of New Brunswick, 2001-2003. (.4m)
RS844 Communications New Brunswick. News Releases on behalf of the Government of New Brunswick, 2007. (electronic only – contact Digital Preservation Unit.)
RS857 Business New Brunswick Administration Records. 35mm slides of businesses, many unidentified, 1995 (contact Photograph Unit [P667]). (.3m)
RS861 Records of the Study Committee on Nursing Education. The New Brunswick government, by Order-in-Council 70-714, established the Study Committee on Nursing Education, set up on September 23, 1970. It submitted its report on May 28, 1971. Briefs, reports, nursing education study, legislation, minutes, 1969-1971. (.4m)
RS866 Sports Branch Records. Sports Organizations, 1991-1995, 2000 (1.2m)
RS921 New Brunswick Forest Products Commission. Minutes, 1986-1991. (1.5m)
RS1052 Department of Public Safety: Administration Records. Public Relations - 10 VHS tapes: Snowmobile Safety, Motoneige Sécurité, Power Under Control, The Talking Car, Attention Présence d'originaux / Danger Moose Alert, NB 9-1-1-Help Is On The Way/ L'aide est en route, Impact of Violence Sensitization, Impact of Violence, Victim Impact OHS Assembly/ LeBlanc/ Clark (presentation at Oromocto High School), 1998-2002 (contact Audio Visual Unit).
RS1085 Environmental Investigations and Enforcement Records. Environmental Occurrences, 1992-1997. (1.0m)
Probate Court Records:
RS743 Fredericton Judicial District, 1998.
RS750 Edmundston Judicial District. 1998-2000.
RS751 Woodstock Judicial District. 1998, 1999. ■

LYNN HALE SEARS

The Circus Comes to Town

FRED H. PHILLIPS

Presented before the Carleton County Historical Society at Woodstock, March 22, 1961

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It's a pity you're all wearing your shoes tonight – for I'm thinking about a time when you were barefoot.

You have been fishing down at Bull's Creek. You were trudging back into Woodstock, your fishing pole over your shoulder, an indifferent string of trout on a forked twig.

Suddenly every drab barn, every fence and deadwall [sic] had been turned into a thing of art and beauty. In letters four feet high was a great WED., in lesser letters no more than two feet high was a modest JULY, while in a mighty figure six feet high was one great "8". And leaping out of the middle of it all was a f-e-e-rocious lion. For a moment you stood transfixed with joy and awe. Yes, the circus was coming to Woodstock... Once in the railroad yards the train was quickly broken up...muffled roars from deep within told you that their jungle majesties were not amused. Then with patient plodding footfall, freighted with the wisdom of the ages, came nature's ponderous philosophers – the elephants.

Later at the grounds you watched the raising of the big top poles, the hoisting of the canvas...at mid-morning there was the long-promised street parade. In memory you can still catch fleeting glimpses of baroque tableau wagons trundling behind the rumps of great dapple greys...

When you returned the midway was garish with banners giving lurid promise of head-hunting warriors and man-eating reptiles...Coming back out of the sideshow you found a crowd milling around the red ticket wagon...You passed through the menagerie and into the big show...the black maned Nubian lions, the herds of performing elephants, the Royal Bengal tigers, the polar bears, the spirited horses and their bespangled riders, the fearless flyers, then all too quickly the wild west concert.

How soon it was all out and over. One by one the wagons left the lot; one by one the tops were struck – the menagerie, the sideshow, the dressing rooms. Finally the big top sank to the earth, its mighty canopy to be unlaced and baled by hurrying canvasmen.

Inevitably the trundling of heavy wagon tires drew you back to the railroad yard. But too late. For the never-never land had become simply a tightly packed property that folded up on a train. So it had come and gone – the circus – brave figment of a summer's day....

Le cirque arrive en ville

FRED H. PHILLIPS

Présenté devant la Carleton County Historical Society à Woodstock, le 22 mars 1961

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est dommage que vous ayez tous des chaussures aux pieds ce soir, car je songe à une époque où vous alliez pieds nus.

Vous étiez allés pêcher au ruisseau Bull. Vous reveniez vers Woodstock en vous traînant les pieds, votre canne à l'épaule, des truites de différentes tailles embrochées sur une branchette fourchue.

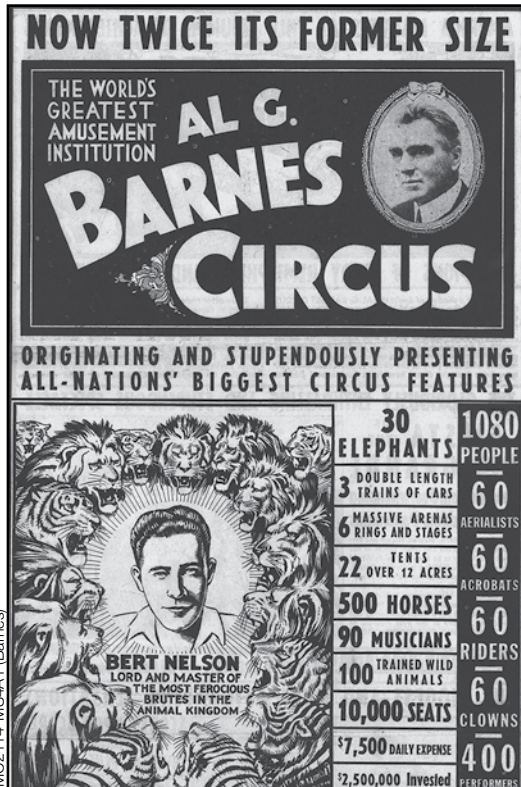
Soudain, toutes les mornes granges, toutes les clôtures et tous les murs vides se sont transformés en œuvres d'art. En lettres de quatre pieds de haut il était écrit « MERCREDI », en lettres d'un plus deux pieds de haut, un modeste « JUILLET »; entre les deux trônait un immense « 8 » de six pieds de haut. Et au milieu de tout cela, un lion f-é-é-roce. Pour un instant vous êtes demeurés là, pétrifiés par la joie et un respect mêlé d'admiration. Oui, le cirque était de passage à Woodstock... Une fois dans le parc ferroviaire, le train a rapidement été déchargé... des rugissements sourds se faisaient entendre depuis les profondeurs; les rois de la jungle n'entendaient pas à rire. Puis, avec des bruits de pas pesants, portant sur leur dos la sagesse des âges, sont arrivés les lourds philosophes de la nature, les éléphants.

Plus tard, sur le site, vous avez regardé les grands mâts se dresser vers le ciel, le hissage des toiles. Et en milieu de matinée a eu lieu, dans les rues, la parade tant attendue. Vous pouvez toujours, dans vos souvenirs, entrevoir le tableau baroque des chariots défilant bruyamment derrière les croupes gris pommelées.

Lorsque vous êtes revenus, le site accueillant les attractions était bariolé de bannières où l'on vous promettait, de façon tapageuse, guerriers chasseurs de têtes et reptiles mangeurs d'hommes...À votre sortie du spectacle forain, la foule se massait autour du chariot rouge où étaient vendus les billets...Vous avez traversé la ménagerie pour assister au spectacle principal... les lions nubiens à la crinière noire, les troupes d'éléphants dressés, les tigres royaux du Bengale, les ours polaires, les fougueux chevaux et leurs étincelants cavaliers, les intrépides voltigeurs, puis trop rapidement hélas, le concert de l'Ouest sauvage.

Tout est passé si vite. Un par un les chariots se sont mis à quitter le terrain, un par un les chapiteaux sont retombés – la ménagerie, les attractions, les vestiaires. Enfin est venu le tour du grand chapiteau, dont l'immense toile serait délacée et emballée par les monteurs de chapiteau pressés.

Inévitablement, le bruit des roues des chariots qui s'ébranlaient vous a ramenés au parc ferroviaire. Mais trop tard. Car le pays imaginaire, étroitement emballé, tenait maintenant sur un train. Il était venu et reparti, le cirque, beau fruit de l'imagination d'un jour d'été...



Al. G. Barnes Circus broadside, 1930s / Dépliant du cirque Al. G. Barnes, années 1930



Al. G. Barnes Magazine and Daily Review, 1934 / Publication Al. G. Barnes Magazine and Daily Review, 1934



Robbins Bros. Circus parade, Queen Street, Fredericton, June 28, 1938 / Défilé du cirque Robbins Bros., rue Queen, Fredericton, 28 juin 1938

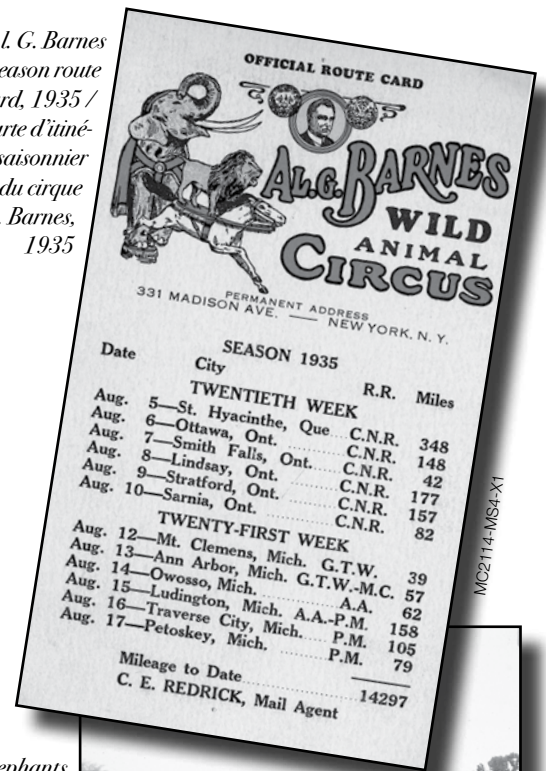


Elephants setting up tent, Robbins Bros. Circus, Fredericton, June 28, 1938 / Éléphants installant un chapiteau, cirque Robbins Bros., Fredericton, 28 juin 1938

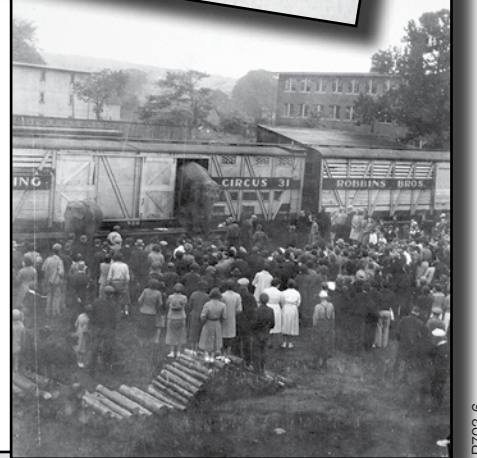


European Circus Sideshow, Saint John Exhibition, ca. 1936 / Spectacle forain de l'European Circus à l'exposition de Saint John, vers 1936

Al. G. Barnes season route card, 1935 / Carte d'itinéraire saisonnier du cirque Al. G. Barnes, 1935



Elephants disembark from a Robbins Bros. Circus train at the York Street Station, Fredericton, ca. 1939 / Des éléphants descendent d'un train du cirque Robbins Bros. à la gare de la rue York, Fredericton, vers 1939



Robbins Bros. Circus trains packed with equipment at York Street Station, June 28, 1938 / Train du cirque Robbins Bros. chargé d'équipement à la gare de la rue York, 28 juin 1938

Midway Follies circus act, Fredericton Exhibition, 1957 / Numéro de cirque du



Midway Follies à l'exposition de Fredericton, 1957



Midway at Fredericton Exhibition, 1957 / Attractions foraines à l'exposition de Fredericton, 1957