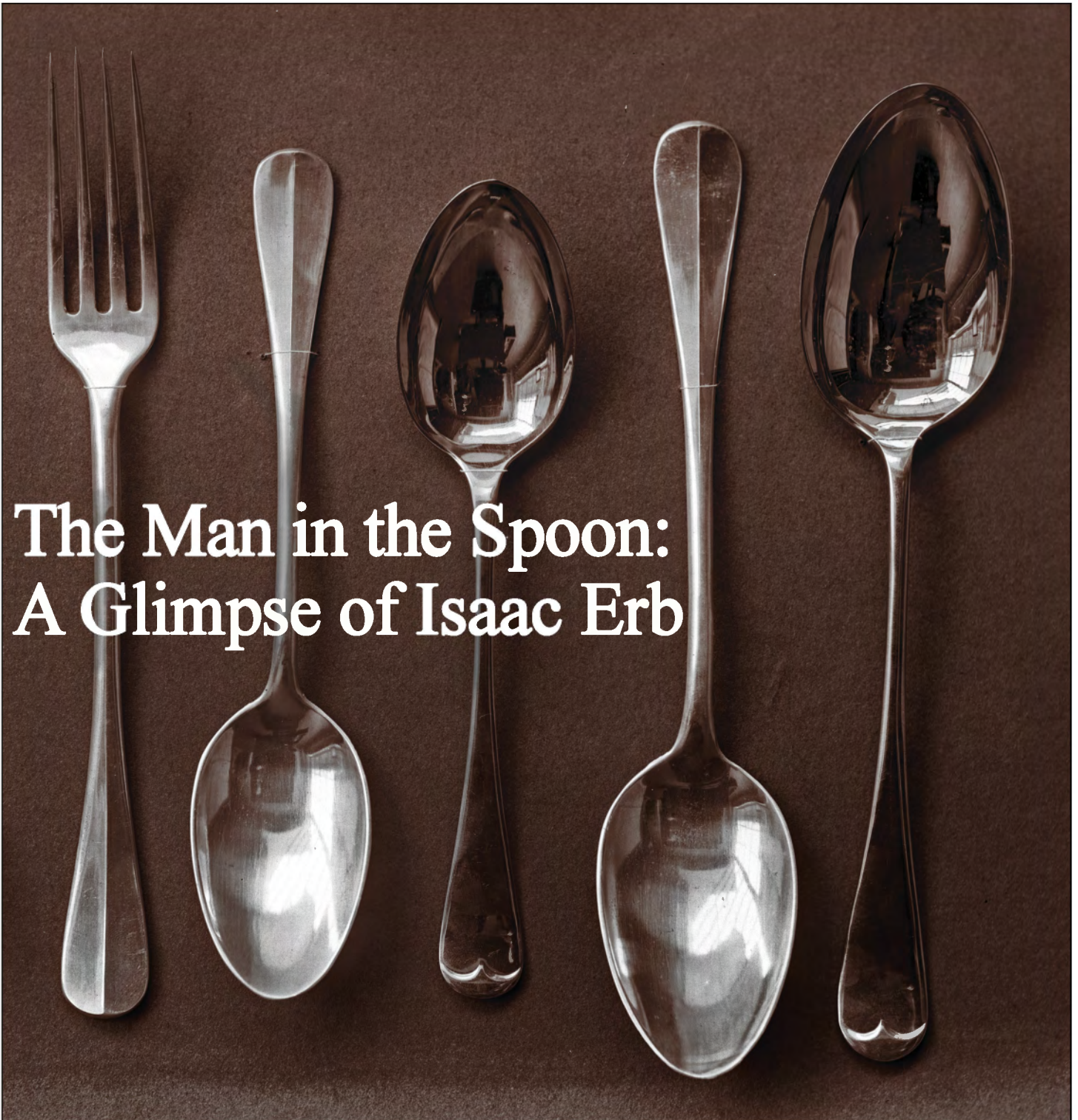




Silhouettes

Autumn 2016
Number 43

The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick



The Man in the Spoon: A Glimpse of Isaac Erb

P210-2123

W.H. Thorne's silverware display, c. 1911

Silhouettes

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

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P

PROFESSIONAL photographers can try every possible measure to control the environment and subject of a photograph, but there is no telling what extraneous or unintended information may be captured. Sometimes it is that inadvertently captured piece of information that adds the most value to an otherwise ordinary shot. This proved to be the case with an image in P210, a collection of 3,400 glass plate negatives taken by Saint John photographer Isaac Erb. Erb was born in 1846 to John and Mary Ann (Morrell). His career as a photographer in Saint John spanned more than 50 years and his work is one of the outstanding archival sources in the province. The images are a visual compendium of life in Saint John and the Maritimes at the beginning of the 20th century. The subject matter is diverse - from studio portraits to military images to views of towns and cities. Among the less exciting commercial photos are images of products that stores used in advertisements and other marketing. It was in several of the latter images that an intriguing discovery was made, thanks to a little luck and some well-polished silverware. For over half a year now, it has been my privilege to work with the Erb negatives, digitizing, editing and describing every image for the finding aid. While working on P210-919 (a picture of silverware), I magnified the image to look for a maker's mark on the cutlery. To my surprise, I saw a man with a white mustache and



Close up of Erb taking a photograph as reflected in a spoon

camera looking back at me. It was Isaac Erb, captured in the act of taking the photograph. It was an interesting discovery, but I thought little about it until a few months later, when several more flatware photographs proved to reflect miniature shots of Erb on each spoon. After a bit of research, I discovered that out of all the photographs and negatives we had of Isaac Erb's work, including in other collections in the archives, Erb was present in none but these spoon images. From what is visible in the shots (the majority of which are dated from March 1911), Erb in his mid-60s was of thin build, with white hair and a thick mustache. The images typically show him standing with his hands clasped, waiting for the picture to be captured. Although one of the most celebrated photographers in New Brunswick's history, photos of the man himself are scarce, never mind the idea of finding evidence of the photographer at work. These reflected images are an example of the serendipitous yet intriguing nature of photographic records for those working in the archival field. ■

**Denise Steeves,
volunteer/summer student**

P210-2123

Love Letters Turned War Letters: MC651 Eddy Family Fonds (Part II)

This is a continuation of a series that began in the Spring 2015 issue of Silhouettes.

B1
O.T.C
Brockville
Jan. 10, 1941

Dear Isabel:

Brockville, oh! Land of Hope and Glory. At 9:30pm I arrived at the training centre and at 2:00 A.M. I had finished drawing equipment and finally hit the hay. At 6:00 A.M. we got up for breakfast washed, etc. and had breakfast at 7:00 A.M. Spent the [most] of the morning doing nothing and after dinner (12:30) we had our first parade. The parade was the old live [sic] on discipline (is that spelt right) and so forth. I'm rather glad to be here, but there's a lack of something. I can't explain it very easily.

At and around the camp I've met three fellows I knew at Queen's. Everybody except the off one or two are strangers but I expect that I shall get to know the boys in our hut shortly. I'll have little else to do when off duty but get acquainted (with the boys). That brings me to the subject of leaves from Friday to Sunday or Monday morning. There are however late leaves from A.D. after date (5:30 pm to 6:30 A.M.). That means for the Science Formal I would leave here on the train that arrives in Kingston at 7:30 and would return on a train that leaves Kingston about 3:00 A.M. (I'm not sure when this train leave Kingston, but will (no more ink in this desk) find out). That would be the set up on any dances I attend at Queen's. I know that John had invited you to the A.M.S. formal. I know that if I tell him, say next week, that I am not able to take you he would jump at the opportunity. Isabel I can never be sure that I will get leave, I may or I may not at the pleasure of the commandant. So you can see that if you go with me you may go. I think a formal means quite a lot to you I think I will write to see that you have a definite date to the formals. I shall wait to hear from you first. You see Isabel I don't think it quite fair of me to ask you a blunt yes or no. That would put you on the spot. I don't think my love for you would be changed or affected in any case. Please tell me what you think and please do not be anything but honest with yourself. That is enough for the formals. Every second weekend I will be free from Saturday noon to Monday morning. I expect to be in Kingston a week from Saturday the 24th. That would be on the 31st Jan. Again Isabel I'm not sure. Gosh Issy I feel like a dog in the manger about these dates. I've never been in quite this type of situation before so I can't act by precedent. I think you can see that the whole thing hangs on the seriousness of thought between us. I don't want any decision on your part which is prompted by pity or what have you. Your de-

cision must be such that is satisfies you, since it will no doubt affect you quite a lot. I told you once that I wasn't going to lose contact with you, I'm not. Oh, Moses! I've got rather tangled up. I love you, and don't let you that worry you. It is none of your business, why or how. You'd better answer this letter in a hurry or I'll go A.W.O.L. to knock your block off.

Issy did you enjoy yourself on Friday? I'm sorry I had to go. You are the only thing that could me in Kingston and since you are not war work I have joined the army and left Kingston. That is the essence of it. Please miss me sometime.

Love
Bob

B2
O.T.C.
Brockville,
Jan 25, 1942

Dear Isabel: -

I'd give anything to be on my way down to see you now. You have now no idea how much you are missed. Gosh Isabel I love you. It can't be the weather, it isn't the food, it isn't the work. It's you.

Yesterday after leaving you I went back to the Gym, got my battle dress (2nd suit), changed and then went over to the Union. Played around over there for a while and then had supper with John, Bill Wellwood, Jack Houck, Bert Clarkson, etc. After supper John walked up to the house with me and we shot the gulf for a while. You know Isabel, John thinks an awful lot of you. He thinks you are about the only thing God ever created. He thinks you are unwilling to become tied down to anything or anybody as yet. I wouldn't be at all surprised but what John is in love with you. This thought frightens me at times but I don't see what I can do about it. Most of the time, I must confess, I do not think of John as someone you might fall in love with. I don't believe this is the result of an exalted opinion of myself but rather because you told me you love me. I haven't been trained to accept statements as the absolute truth. I have been trained at the universities to investigate such things and to accept them only after exhaustive proof. Then, we are instructed to accept only some parts because human nature is as constant as the weather. So if I were a true scientist I would say; Isabel Race loves me ; Because she allows me to kiss her, be-

cause of a million and one other things, proof of the statement is not necessary by other means. But Isabel is human, how long will she love me? It bothers me at times. I suppose I should leave it in God's hands and make sure you don't have a chance to forget me. If you should I doubt if I should die, but Moses I'd feel miserable, horribly miserable. Despite the fact that you have a horrible disposition, an ugly pan, a sweaky [sic] voice, you are perfect. Oh, Gee! I wish you were here. You know sometime next Saturday, after I settle for a few things down town and at the university, I'm going to haunt Race's place till late Sunday night. I'm glad you will be in Kingston and ready to be haunted, I hope. I'm not afraid that you'll fall in love with anyone for a while and by that time I'll probably be able to sue you if you do. And so my darling I'm very much in love you and very much want to see you.

You must get tired of this prattle of mine. Saturday night I got me ordered a greatcoat and took Ed's C.O.T.C. uniform down to be made over for me. Ed's uniform will serve as a good second uniform and it will only cost about \$15.00 complete.

Damn it I can't seem to get anything else on this blessed paper except that I'm practically crazy about you. It's always cropping up. You are a mindful if there ever was one. Curly is getting married on June 27th. I don't know what that has to with it but it gives me some funny ideas and up comes a controversy (?) You once told me I was always fighting a battle between what I thought I should do and what I want to do. What I'd want to do would be get married but I don't think I should till after the war because of army death rate, separation so soon after marriage, general insecurity. Sometimes I think people would be better off if they threw caution to the wind and did what they liked when they wanted to.

The only thing I'm certain of is that I love you.

Bob.

B3.

O.T.C.
Brockville, Ont
Feb 3, 1942

Dear Isabel: -

Yesterday I learned that on Friday, Feb 13th, I and the best of the platoon will be on a route march which ends about 2 pm Sat morning. I was afraid something like that would happen but I hoped it wouldn't. Darn it anyhow, I don't think there's any justice. Well Isabel, my dear, this is where you stand. John asked me to let him know if I could not take you to the formal. I did that. You are not being pushed off on anybody should he find that he'd like to take you. I know he will if he possibly can and frankly the "can" part is not a financial bother. What it depends on is arrangements that were being made for a ski trip about that time. Gosh Isabel I don't know but I feel putrid. I've been rather looking forward to taking you to the formal now I can't. I-I-I that's what this letter be a

series of. You'll get the invitation to the formal since I have bought a ticket. If John finds he cannot use the ticket would you consider going with someone else who would like to take you? It sounds as if you were being pushed around doesn't it? Isabel, I don't know how to say it exactly, but I hate to have you miss the formal because I've been a pig and hate to have you think are being pushed off on anyone because you are not. What does one do in these cases?

How's your cold? Have you been attending lectures? I can't think straight. I'm muddled, mad and I wish I were in Kingston. Issy this love of mine makes me so happy and yet at times it causes a lot of grief. It's funny but it's the truth. When you are around I sit squarely on top of the world. When you are away and something like this formal business happens I feel like Hell. Why the heck can't things be different? Why can't I forget the darned army on Friday? Because we are slaves to something, convention or something else. Do we ever do just what we want? No. Why the deuce don't I marry you now and forget that it would be best to have you finish your college education etc. What is the value of these things? Where is the stress to be placed? Do we stress the material too much? Are we frail creature [sic] afraid to face the rougher things? Is our comfort at stake? I don't know but I think I'm a heel.

I love you,
Bob.

B4.

O.T.C.
Brockville, Ont.
Feb. 4, 1942

Dear Isabel: -

Yesterday I forgot to say that I would be in Kingston on Saturday. I will be down for Sat & Sunday next week, (That's the formal week-end) Flammer has been transferred to Ottawa and so I'll arrive by train. You know those blessed train schedules are changed so that we can't get out here till 4:00 pm, starting next Monday. Damn it anyhow.

Today from 8 to 12:30 we did a 12 mile route march. We're all done in. One poor chap about 32 years of age, a swell little fellow, took either a stroke or heart attack and passed away. He was with our section and wanted to get up his own section ahead. At the hourly break (10 minutes) he started up the road to his section and on the hill he dropped right in front of us. They rushed him back by the platoon truck and he died shortly before breaking camp. These things are funny Isabel. I can't help but feel be sorry, but he's better off, he left no dependents, his next of kin is his mother. It really doesn't seem to be a tragedy. We miss nice people we miss those we love but we can't do anything about it. I wonder if a lot of sorrowing is just self pity and nothing more.

Saturday night I'd like to take you dancing some place.

Is there a dance anywhere in Kingston there? I'd like to take you down to the B.A. for dinner Sat. night also. If you can't make it I'll bash your sweet little head in. I'll do it gently though cause I don't want to hurt you.

Well dearest, I must eat lest I fade away to be a skeleton. Till Saturday.

Love
Bob.

B5.

O.T.C.
Brockville, Ont
Feb. 8, 1942

Dear Issy: -

Snow, snow, miles high and all around. A world of white between me and thee yet you feel near in a sense. I feel that you are sitting next to me reading this note over my shoulder and grinning. I look but do not see you, I feel but do not touch you, I think and I can make you out in my thoughts. Maybe I'm just tired, but really Issy at times you are refreshingly near. The mind I think. Just mind over matter. In moods of a kind distance is a mere trifle, but in moods of another sort it is everything. Really it works on the same principle as "Nearer my God to Thee". Could you be my religion? I guess we need a definition of religion first, don't we? Sometimes I wonder just what you mean to me. I mean to what I think you mean but what you really do mean to me. Does one ever find out these things until the object of ones desire has been placed out of his reach? You know Issy if you went to Africa or any place actually out of reach by mail train or such communications I'd be damn well lost. Just take a look at my life at this very moment. I have two main interests (1) YOU (2) This life in the army. There are side issues and minor offshoots of course but these two are definitely the chief ones. Now the army is something I like well enough and yet it would not be a great blow to have to leave the army for civilian life tomorrow. If you should suddenly not love me I wouldn't go mad. I'd probably get over it in a year or so. It would be like losing the direction in life. It would require a complete readjustment. You mean an awful lot to me. You give me more ambition than I've had since I was in grade IX. You are sort of a reason for living, the thing in life that make [sic] everything which seems foolish really worthwhile. Without someone to love, without someone like you living is just going from day to day. How do you like being a purpose, someone else's purposes? Telling you you are so necessary may be a heck of a thing. It is not meant to stir up pity and I know it doesn't now. If it should some say after next week it is time to tell me. If you ever tell me you don't love me I doubt if I'll throw up my hands in despair. I think I'd spend some time making sure, finding out why. You know you are rather worth keeping. I'll be very proud of myself when I can introduce you as my wife. This is a

"Snow, snow, miles high and all around. A world of white between me and thee yet you feel near in a sense. I feel that you are sitting next to me reading this note over my shoulder and grinning. I look but do not see you, I feel but do not touch you, I think and I can make you out in my thoughts. Maybe I'm just tired, but really Issy at times you are refreshingly near".

- (1) I love you
- (2) You are a focal point in my career
- (3) If you ever think you don't love me tell me right away and then we shall see.
- (4) I don't know what will happen in the next year but I love you and expect to marry you.

It seems strange Isabel but I actually do not doubt but that I'll marry you.

Tell me Isabel. What are you thinking now? Does this thing bother you very much? How's your cough? Please be kind to yourself and get rid of your cold.

I phoned mother today. She and Dad and Murray are in Montreal for a convention.

Sweetheart. I love you.

S. long for now,

Love
Bob.

P.S. You are my headlight to light my way to paradise ain't that sweet. ■

Compiled by Julia Thompson

Different types of Architectural Records found in the Cartographic Section

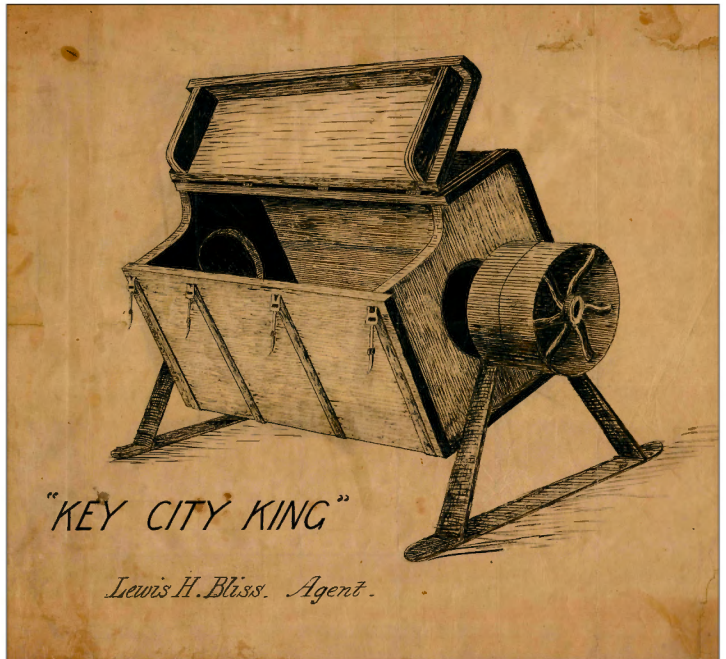
MOST people think of houses, buildings and bridges when you say architectural drawings or plans, and the majority of plans held by the archives fit these categories. There are, however, some unusual types of architectural drawings here at the Provincial Archives. There are such things as a lamp post, churn, fences, fox boroughs, fence weaver, fair booths, wooden tank, towers, boats, fireplaces, and mantles. Some might consider these items to be merely “details”, but if someone was commissioned specifically to design say a fence, mantle or tower you might find features that are thought provoking and unique.

The majority of our architectural collections contain various types of buildings and some single residence dwellings. Others however include diverse subjects based on the person’s occupation, skills, and interests. Some were architects who worked strictly on buildings, whereas others could design anything you wanted them to.

The MC164 Mott, Myles, and Chatwin fonds is one of the most significant holdings of architectural drawings we have. It includes some

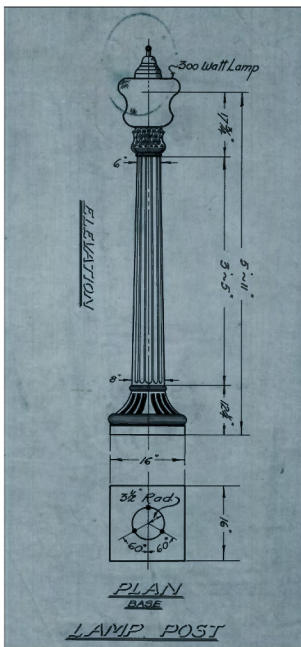
very old and quite fragile items and some of these very different and unusual drawings. Some other examples are drinking and water fountains, monitor chimney top, log deck for a mill, monuments, vaults, and a refrigerator. Another collection with variety, but small in comparison, is *MC157 Architectural plans collection*. Another collection, *MC33 William Elliot Vaughan fonds: [1909-1910]*

contains technical drawings of various types of boats. We also have *MC607 Robert William Douglass collection*, most are sketches of different types of sailing and steam ships but there are a few drawings of cars with specifications.



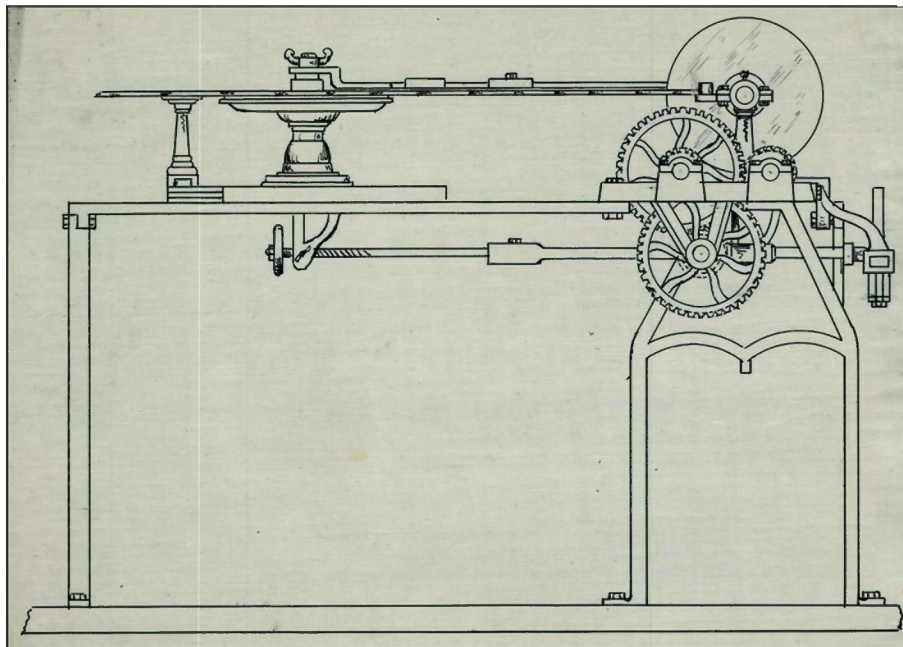
Architectural drawing of a "Key City King" churn

MC157-4



Architectural drawing of a lamp post

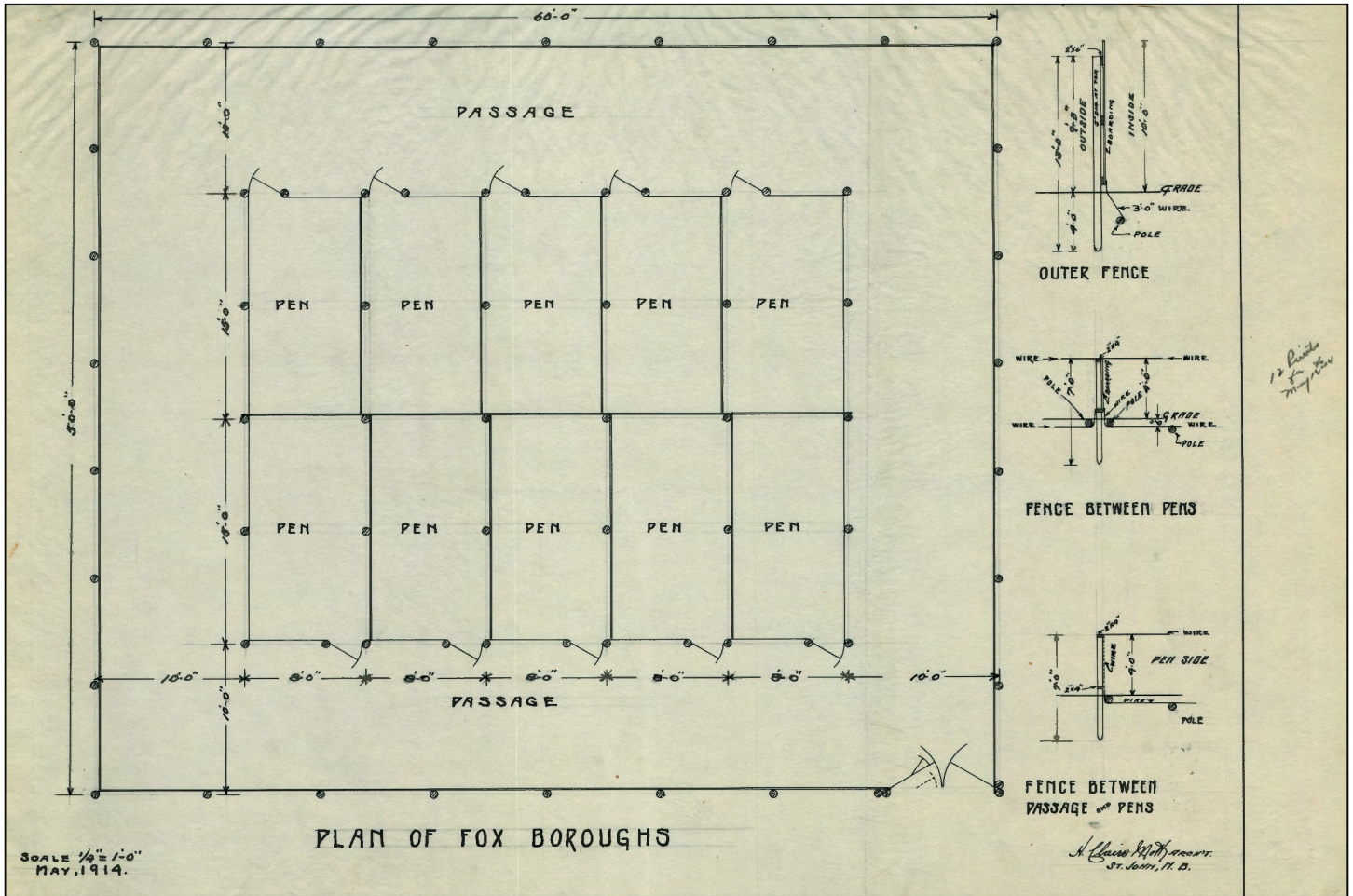
MC157-1



Architectural drawing of a fence weaving machine

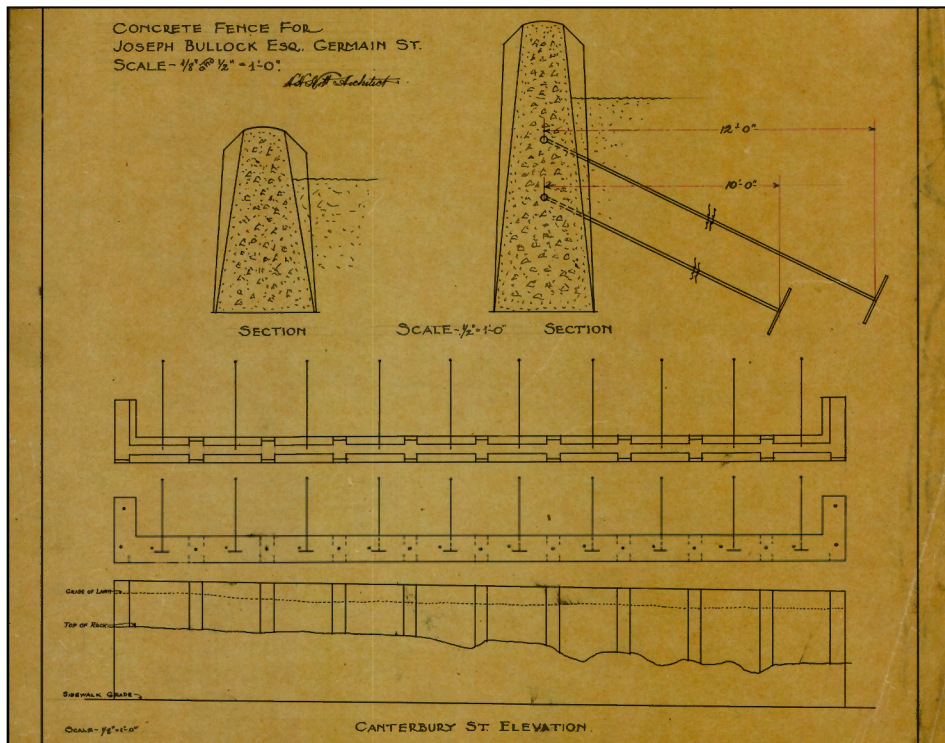
MC164-601

MC164-778



Architectural drawing of a plan for fox boroughs

MC164-434



Architectural drawing of a concrete fence

MC2089 Stephen Leonard Chauncey Coleman collection relates to patents with accompanying technical drawings pertaining to automobiles. Some samples of our drawings and plans can be found on our website in the "Archives Portfolio" under the Exhibits and Education Tools tab. We do have some architectural drawings digitized, but the vast majority of these are still only found in paper format. If anyone would like to know more about what we have, or whether we might have a specific architectural drawing it is often best to make contact prior to visiting to confirm availability. Some of our architectural collections have very fragile drawings and some have not been fully processed. Contact can be made with the Cartographic Archivist or the Manager of Private Sector Records.

Mary-Ellen Badeau

Summer Students

SUMMER is a season of challenges, achievements and energy at the Archives. Much of the activity is generated by students who join our staff to learn about the province's documented past, who the people are that manage these records, what they do, and to contribute to this "behind the scenes" work.

The first step is to secure funding – a process that typically begins in February. The Archives has limited funds to hire students without external assistance which is one of the reasons the Associates and the funding they provide are so vital. Applications were made to Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions (YCW), Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ), and Student Employment Experience Development (SEED). The first two require employer matching funds while SEED provides all the costs related to a placement. Although success was realized under all three programs the approval process can be slow; often notification of a grant is not received until late spring. This means that choice students, especially those in university with research or archives backgrounds, may accept positions elsewhere before we are able to hold interviews. You may remember some press coverage of the SEED program early in the summer due to changes in the administration of the program which caused some challenges. These changes and other circumstances led to the Archives employing more students just entering university than has been customary.

This year, the Archives and the Associates hired 9 students who worked between 8 and 16 weeks. Having 9 extra bodies to share the load is a great help in many facets of the Archives' operation but it also means added supervision, planning, and coaching by archives' staff. Two of the students were returning and hit the ground running, while the other seven were experiencing their first exposure to archives.

Work this year took place on the Marie-Esther Robichaud fonds and other film and sound holdings, the Gloria Paul fonds, the Ruth Cleghorn Ker collection, the Esywn Lyster fonds, the Nave George fonds, the White Birch Lodge fonds, and others. One student created 2290 archival quality scans of the Isaac Erb glass negatives and improved the descriptions; this work will significantly improve public access to this highly used collection. A student enrolled in conservation studies at Algonquin College put her skills to use by completing preservation surveys and conservation treatments for a number of institutions including PANB, Mount Allison University, Grand Manan Archives, Religieuses Hospitalières de Saint-Joseph, and the New Brunswick Museum.

Other students were given the opportunity to shadow meetings with donors and experience the whole process of adding new material to the Archives holdings from packing up material at the donor's home, accessioning the acquisition in the Archives database, conducting archival appraisal, and finally arranging and describing the material to make it accessible to future researchers.

It is not expected that all such summer students will seek careers in archives but over the years more than a dozen have gone on to do so and are now employed in Nova Scotia, Ontario, PEI, and New Brunswick. Even those who do not stay in the heritage field receive thorough job exposure and gain an awareness of archives that will stay with them in their chosen path. ■



Student Isaac Carter

Private Records

MC3992 Eswyn Lyster fonds

Eswyn (Ellinor) Lyster was born in England in 1923. She met and married Company Sergeant Major Bill Lyster of the Calgary Highlanders while he was stationed in Aldwick, Sussex, in 1943. She came to Canada with many other war brides on the RMS Mauretania in 1946. The fonds consists mainly of correspondence between Eswyn and other war brides and research material leading to the publication of her book "Most Excellent Citizens," which was published posthumously in 2010. There are also gardening journals from 1985-2000.

MC3997 Barnes & Co. fonds

Founded by Jacob Barnes in 1853, Barnes & Co. was a printing and publishing company in Saint John. The fonds consists of one purchasing book/order supply book that survived the great fire of Saint John in June 1877. It details transactions between Barnes & Co. and other companies around the world between 1868-1876.

MC4002 Roswell Henry Rice fonds

Roswell Henry Rice (1857-1913) operated a "photo car" studio business around New Brunswick and part of Nova Scotia. Fonds consists of a ledger (1895-1901) and expenses and receipts booklet. The ledger records the business activities, income, and expenses of Rice's railway car studio. It provides the dates and locations of stops, names and addresses of clients, format of photo requested, payment information, and notes.

MC4012 Gorman Family fonds

Records are primarily photographs from the Fredericton area, including Gorman and Ridland family photographs, images of the Military Hospital and surrounding buildings at Old Government House, and the 1893 Fredericton flood.

Joanna Aiton Kerr

Government Records

RS230 Records of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. 25 poster boards pertaining to women's issues, 1837-1959, including a card about importance of organized religion to women with mention of comments from Father Leroux who forbids "fontages" [sic] (end of 1780's). (.3m)

RS232 Records of the Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing. Financial Returns (Political Parties & District Associations), 2009. (.4m)

RS262 Chief Coroner Records, 2000-2001. (3.9m)

RS314 Environmental Protection Records. Hazardous Waste, 1986-1997. (.4m)

RS314 Environmental Protection Records. Remediation of petroleum contaminated sites, 2005. On microfilm. (31 microfilms)

RS383 Saint John County Jail Records. Constables' Reports, Discharge and Commitment Documents, 1843-1909. (.2m)

RS398 Department of Public Works: Annual Report, 1882. (.01m)

RS661 Teachers Certification Records, 1987-1994. (.4m)

RS814 School Attendance Registers. North Minto School, 1927. (.01m)

RS857 Business New Brunswick Administration Records. Pamphlet of New Brunswick School of Arts and Crafts, Summer Session 1958. (.01m)

Probate Court Records:

RS743 Fredericton Judicial District, 2000-2001.

RS746 Moncton Judicial District, 2001

Finding Aids – Updated

RS22 Provincial Secretary: Railways Administration Records. Correspondence: Moncton and Bouctouche Railway, New Brunswick Railway Company, Salisbury and Harvey Railroad Company, Saint John and Quebec Railway, Caraquet and Gulf Shore Railway, Elgin and Havelock Railway Company, 1912-1922. R2016.116

RS153 Northumberland County Council Records. Constitution of the Children's Aid Society of the Municipality of the County of Northumberland, 1924. (.001m) R2016.116

RS260 Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Records. Meeting, 1917. (.001m) R2016.116

RS408 Records of the Office of Premier Walter E. Foster. Transfer of Jurisdiction; Tidal Waters; Wharves; Public Works, 1919-1921. (.001m) R2016.116

RS586 Records of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Licence Act in Victoria County. Report, 1908. (.001m) R2016.116

RS587 Records of the Royal Commission on Joseph Hornbrook, Kings County Police Magistrate. Report of Hon. J. D. Hazen, Commissioner, re: investigation into the conduct of the Police Magistrate of Sussex, 1909. (.001m) R2016.116

Lynn Hale Sears



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In 2018, the Provincial Archives will celebrate its 50th anniversary and the Associates would like to help in these festivities. To identify appropriate events or actions to mark this momentous occasion, we would like your input on what activities or events might best mark such a commemoration. Although not limited to the following choices, these types of actions would be examples: exhibits, enhancing access to specific records you are aware of, acquiring a specific body of records or a category of record, or holding a symposium about archives and how they are used.

Your ideas will go a long way in making the 50th anniversary a lasting contribution to the province's documentary heritage and the role the Provincial Archives plays. Please submit your ideas to Joanna Aiton Kerr at joanna.aitonkerr@gnb.ca or 506-453-8431.

1968 50 2018



Dear Associates:

As many of you will be aware, the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018. The Associates of the Provincial Archives are taking the lead on the planning for this milestone and, at the end of August, a few of us got together for a preliminary meeting to discuss how best to invite and encourage the members of our group to get involved.

We are hoping to showcase the Provincial Archives, their collections, and their current and potential role in our communities by planning events throughout the province. We thought that, keeping this goal in mind, a good beginning would be to make a preliminary list of possible projects to circulate to members for the purpose of soliciting your comments and further suggestions. We are also looking for volunteers who might be interested not only in planning the events but also in helping to carry them out. Ideas discussed to date have included a lecture series, a conference or workshops on using the Archives, a new scholarly history of New Brunswick, exhibits and one or more events that might bring people together to view or enjoy an archival collection or collections.

Because we wish to extend the celebration's reach well beyond the greater Fredericton area, we are looking for the participation and support of people in all areas of the province. Should we get enough interest, we will plan to take exhibits, speakers and events 'on the road' so to speak, or at least to sponsor or co-sponsor speakers and events in various venues and in both official languages. Our purpose in planning the celebrations is to capture interest among the wider public beyond our Association's membership and, by demonstrating the accessibility, range and importance of the Archives, to encourage people to use the collections.

We welcome your suggestions for events, and your participation. Please send your ideas or comments to myself, and if you would like to become involved in any capacity, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

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