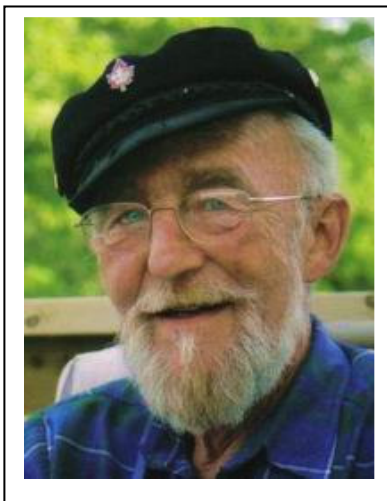


ArchiviaNet



This is the invaluable on-line research tool of Canada's National Archives and is just loaded with goodies. It is accessible from the National Archives site < www.collectionscanada.ca/ > or from the Canadian Genealogical Centre (www.genealogy.gc.ca). Here you will find an extensive list of databases and research tools and it might be a good idea to explore them to find out the kind of information you could expect.

The 'General Inventory' database is the place to go for most things. I find it is best in most searches to give the minimum of information and then select how many entries you want per page. I have a slow loading computer so I always choose "Max", which means there will be fewer pages to load. If you want to know if the Archives has copies of a certain

unpublished church register, you could select 'Private Records', type in the keyword "Church Records" and you will find a list of 157 churches for which they have some records.

The other databases and research tools run the gamut of 'Colonial Archives', 'Home Children', 'Soldiers of WW I', 'Maps, Plans and Charts' and a host of others. The 1901 Census is digitized and available on-line. The ones I use most frequently include "Index to Census Microfilm Reels", 'Electoral Maps of Canada' and 'Post Offices and Postmasters'.

The last named database provides the electoral district and place name changes and dates for post offices, the name, date of birth, date of appointment, date of vacancy, and cause of vacancy for each postmaster or postmistress. I used Arnprior as a keyword and found that they had 12 postmasters from 1841 to 1980. I also got a listing for nearby Clay Bank, which showed that they had a post office from 1 Aug 1889 to 30 Nov 1929. Walter Barry was the postmaster for the whole period and the post office closed when he died. Another search, for "Calumet" showed that relatives of ours had run the post office on Ile du Grand Calumet from 1873 to 1968. It seems to be a little off-beat as a database but it can provide lots of information.

Little Surprises

I was recently doing some research for a lady from Dryden whose family had roots in our area and was not having any spectacular success. She had given me a list of names and I found and recorded a lot of material on people with the same family name but very little on the specific names she had given me. I recorded the other material on the off chance that it might relate to others in her family.

She wrote back that they were all connected and she was thrilled with the extra findings. Then I was into the 1901 Census for her, going through a whole township looking for one couple that may have lived there and did find her grandfather. Next door to him was a couple with the same family name, so I recorded them also. This turned out to be her grandfather's brother whom she had been seeking for three years.

I guess that the moral is: It is easier to record information when you find it, even if you don't think it will be useful, and delete it later than to refind it when you realize that you should have captured it.