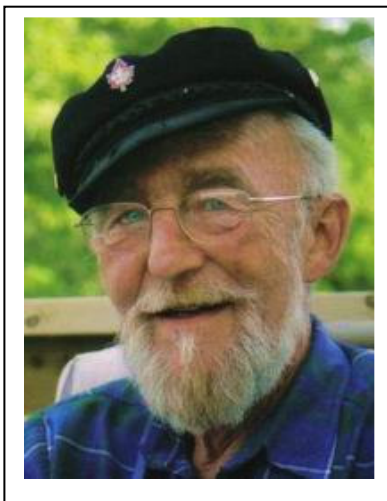


The Family Historian

Patrick Wohler

Column #53

Nova Scotia Records



I was delighted to hear from reader, Albert Boudreau, of Fitzroy Harbour, with a question about researching ancestors in Nova Scotia. I don't often have the opportunity to write about the maritimes.

Civil records in Nova Scotia prior to 1907 are held by Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax, NS, B3H 1W4; (902) 424-6060; www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm. Birth, death, and marriage records should be there. They also have the microfilms of the Crown Land Grants and Petitions. The petitions usually have more information about your ancestors than the grants themselves.

More recent Civil Records are held by the Vital Statistics Branch of the Department of Business and Consumer Services. Subsequent land transfers are recorded in the various district Registry of Deeds.

The Nova Scotia GenWeb Project, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~canns>, is an absolute treasure trove of links to helpful genealogical resources in Nova Scotia. There is

enough material there to keep you busy for months. I have rarely seen such a thorough listing and it is almost overwhelming. You really get the idea that you are not going to get through this in a hurry.

In addition there are links to the various county GenWeb sites which are rich in more local resources.

One link I didn't find there is for the 1881 Canadian Census which you can find on the Mormon site, www.familysearch.org. Select <search>, then <census> and carry on from there. On their site you can also find the microfilm reel numbers for the parish records of the church where your ancestors likely attended. These can then be ordered through the Family History Centre in the Mormon church in your area.

The counties also have Rootsweb Message Boards (www.rootsweb.com) where you can check out if anyone else is researching the same people as you are and you can post requests for information. Please remember to use a helpful subject line for your message.

Preservation 101

If you handle old paper documents or photographs, or have some at home, or if you volunteer at a library, museum, or archives, you really should take a look at this website.

Preservation 101 is a free, online course designed for you and it is really well done. Karen Brown, a graduate of Queen's and Dalhousie Universities in Conservation and Library Science, created the course for the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts. I have spent most of my life in activities related to heritage preservation, including teaching it, and I am really excited about this course.

The course comprises eight lessons, a glossary of technical terms, and a set of guidelines for the Care and Handling of archival materials. When a technical term comes up in the course material, it is hotlinked to its definition in the glossary. You don't have to go all over the place looking for it. The 'Care and Handling Guidelines' are excellent and could be posted with advantage in all museums and archives.

The core of each lesson is a well written treatment of its subject. There is a very brief self-help test that you can take, if you choose and the computer will return the corrected result to you. There are also self-help exercises that you can undertake if you wish. An extensive list of supplementary material, both online and print, is included for further research.

The eight lesson topics are:

1. Introduction to Preservation
2. Introducing Archives
3. Nature of Paper and Its Deterioration
4. Storage
5. Housekeeping and Cleanliness
6. Emergency Preparedness
7. Photographs-Storage-Care-Handling
8. Organizing a Preservation Program

It is helpful but not critical to follow the given sequence. I wouldn't be surprised if a number of institutions included this course as a part of their volunteer training program.

You can find Preservation 101 at: www.nedcc.org/p101cs/p101wel.htm. I hope you like it too.

I welcome comments, queries, and suggestions at: p_wohler@hotmail.com

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