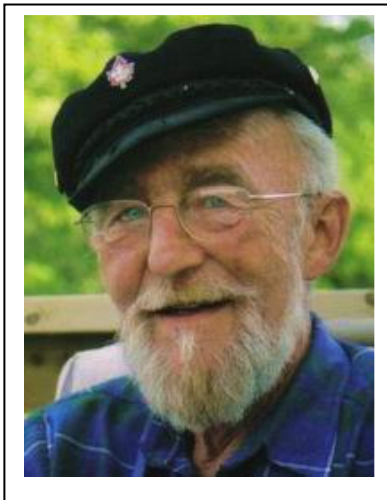


The Family Historian

Patrick Wohler

A Note About Pat Wohler



Patrick is a native of Verdun, Québec, and has been a teacher, curator, commercial organic grower and beekeeper. He lives on a small farm near Almonte, Ontario.

He is very passionate about genealogy and family history. “It can get quite addictive” he claims. Although he began researching his family’s history in the mid-1960’s, it had to go on a back burner while the demands of a young family and building a career took precedence.

He taught Canadian History at the secondary and college levels and worked in museums in Montreal, Yellowknife, St. John’s, Nfld., Fredericton, N.B., and Ottawa. He then combined his backgrounds in teaching, history, and museums and founded the three-year museum studies programme at Algonquin College. While there he also consulted for museums, municipal councils and government heritage departments across the country and trained museum workers in many parts of Canada.

“Early retirement finally gave me the time to devote to my family history and I went after it with a vengeance.” It did not take long for the interest to go beyond his own family to the whole field of genealogy. He developed data bases to help other researchers and ‘got into the loop’ responding to requests for information and guidance from researchers all over the world via e-mail.

Patrick completed the examinations and other requirements for the designation of Certified Genealogist and he takes the subject very seriously. “Genealogy is a lot of fun but it also requires the rigorous discipline of the historian in research and documentation of the findings”.

He is the author of eight books and numerous articles on History, Education, Museums, and Genealogy and he thoroughly enjoys his column ‘The Family Historian’, which currently runs in 9 area newspapers. “The best thing about the column is that it puts me in touch with a lot of wonderful people that I would never have met otherwise and who contact me with suggestions, comments and questions. It really keeps me on my toes”.

As an off-shoot of the genealogy work, he and his wife, Judy, have recently completed a book documenting the early commercial photographers of Lanark and Renfrew counties and the dates during which they were active there. This will help family history researchers to refine the possible dates of the photographs of their ancestors. It was published by the Arnprior and District Archives.

The Wohlers are avid campers and their routes and destinations often include visits to sites where they can do further research into their families.

In the community, Patrick was a founding member of the Carp Farmers’ Market and served on its board for several years. He was also a member of the board of the Diefenbunker for a number of years and is currently a volunteer at the Arnprior and McNab/Braeside Archives.